

# What every parent should know.

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A message from CDSHS P&C Association, May 2016.

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Dear Parents & Carers,

As in previous years, this ANZAC Day almost 2000 students plus staff at Cleveland District State High School crammed into a small outdoor space – some under a hot tin roof and others in direct sunlight - for the annual service. It was so tight and hot that students had limited access to bathroom amenities, some fainted and suffered other medical conditions, and all were subjected to the heat.

Sadly, this is a regular occurrence each time the entire student body needs to meet together. When former Shadow Minister for Education Tim Mander visited the school recently he – like everyone else – was shocked to learn that one of Queensland's largest high schools does not have a multi-purpose hall to use for general assembly, sports, creative arts and other activities.

For over two decades the school has been asking for a hall, and despite the approaches to successive governments, it has still not materialised.

To highlight the lack of support from government representatives at many levels, it is disappointing that our federal member Mr Andrew Laming recently told a senior staff member that Cleveland High didn't need a hall. Clearly he has not read the needs analysis produced by the school with the support of Redlands City Council and the Queensland Department of Education.

The P&C has been working closely with the principal and school to finally make this hall a reality. It's no longer good enough to make do with the outdated Redlands Council owned hall that can only fit a few hundred people at a time, meaning that special nights can never be held for the entire school community. (At last year's graduation ceremony some parents even

missed out on viewing their child's presentation). We believe it's no longer acceptable to put the health and safety of students at risk by forcing them to sit or stand in stifling conditions. The school has plans in place and has already spoken to the Department of Education Queensland. We have met with representatives of state and local governments, community groups and other stakeholders in order to advance this process.

It's now time to make all parents and the wider school community aware of our progress and our determination to make this new hall a reality. While at this stage we are not asking you to take any direct action, we do encourage you to talk about this with other parents, your children and others across the community, so that everyone is aware of the need and the urgency.

We see this hall as one that will be used by the entire Redlands community; that will not only be a meeting place but will offer CDSHS modern sporting facilities and a venue for multiple activities that can take place in a safe environment. Our school has an enviable reputation as a community school with over 40 groups using the facilities regularly.

If you'd like further information, please feel free to contact me on 0433 794 814.

We look forward to keeping you updated.

Sincerely,

*Lyndsay Byrne*

**Lyndsay Byrne**

Sports Hall Campaign - Project Manager.  
On behalf of the CDSHS P&C Executive.

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