



Parents &
Citizens
Association

BPS P&C President's Report 2017

2017 was action-packed at Balmain Public School. We are not a highly resourced private school, there is no IT department, no academic support team, no kitchenhands, no HR department, and no grounds man on site. We, as parents, lift the game by partnering with the staff and aiming to help.

This year, the kinder children thrived in their transition into Big School and benefitted from the large open-space classroom and the *Investigative Learning* approach. Year 6 students completed their final year at Primary School and head towards High School next year. Their *Graduation* evening looked fantastic; this is a great tradition to keep. We also appreciate the *Yearbook* and providing our children a record of their life at BPS. The *Celebration of Learning* is a wonderful way for the continuing children to be acknowledged and to support the development of their friends. Our School has grown dramatically and we have kept up the required level of resourcing and support needed. Education is the core focus of the facility; and this includes many of our activities such as Music, Art, and Sport.

Looking back at the highlights - from the *Welcome BBQ* and *Welcome Parent Drinks* at the beginning of the year, to the *Belle Property Balmain Fun Run* at the end 2017, it was evident the Parent body continues to deliver. Cliff P hosted a cracking *Halloween Disco*, *Fathers' Day Breakfast*, as well as *Mothers' Day* chocolates. These initiatives were either P&C assisted, or P&C run events for parents, children and teachers, to gather, celebrate their achievements and simply have fun. We continued to work within DoE Assets guidelines with Eaton Street Centre and invest in upgrading the playground. We also added a successful working bee, where parents all chipped in and help make the school look fresh. At the completion of the year, the P&C funded Ms Biggins and the Staff to *Whizz Around the World*, where every student was onstage and celebrated the joy of music and performing. Music, Band, Art and Sport all saw contributions from the P&C and will continue to broaden out our offering at BPS.

The P&C also committed a further resourcing to the next stage of school playground upgrade, (also in partnership with ESC), which will be completed in Term 1 2018. We have also scoped and provisioned for the Year Six specific play area, along the Gladstone Park side, to be established. We continued to aggressively invest in educational resourcing at the school and in technology.

In 2017, the P&C raised over \$120K, (including the P&C Levy, the canteen, as well as over \$80K from various fundraising activities – over half of which came from the *2016 Belle Property Balmain Fun Run*, which is banked at the beginning of the following year). During the same period, the P&C made donations of over \$100K to the school for a variety of educational facilities and services in support of your child's education. That translates to a P&C expenditure of over \$400 per child at Balmain Public School. Our efforts resulted in more resources for Maria and the Balmain Public School staff, as well as more educational options for all our children.

To all those who donate in kind and financially to the P&C – 'thank you'. I make particular note of the Parents that donate their time – this is invaluable, whether it's picking up rubbish, running the clothing stall, helping in class or canteen, cleaning up after art or helping run the band program...this cannot be done without you. The demands on parents for the Fun Run are high, and we all fall in line and support them for the big successful day. Every donation goes towards the education and growth of all students at Balmain Public School. The P&C exists primarily to help sustain and support the broader Balmain Public School community. It holds events to meet, greet and is also very strong financially. That money is spent on items identified collegiately by the staff, parents and carers. All expenditure is voted on in our monthly meetings and we pride ourselves on transparency.

To our Principal, Ms Lambos, to her Assistant Principals and to her dedicated staff both returning and departing: on behalf of the P&C and parents in general – 'thank you' for attending the P&C meetings and events and for taking such good care of our children and for continuing their education in all areas. We greatly appreciate the staff's support of the P&C and its initiatives at the School.

To the P&C Executive – the Vice Presidents Sophie Knox and Andrea Smith, Treasurer David Finlay and Secretary Lyndal Rutgers – a personal 'thankyou' for such a great year, where we all worked together as a team and supported each other.

To those departing – Farewell and best wishes.

To those of you returning in 2018 – See you in the New Year!

Rob Taubman ~ P&C President 2017