

## **P&C message**

You know that 2014 is drawing to a close when four major school / P&C events all take place over a matter of days: the Kindy Orientation for 2015; the 2014 Balmain Fun Run; the 2014 Presentation Day; and the 2014 Year 6 Formal.

Once again the academic year has simply flown by. We started the year in late Jan 2014 with a heavily pregnant Jo Edwards as Acting Principal and a record 274 students in 11 classes. The P&C became formally "Incorporated" in February and the P&C Executive & Committee were voted in to office at the AGM. Now, just over 10 months later we have Maria Lambos well and truly settled in as School Principal - and baby Noah Edwards is 7 months old.

During 2014 the P&C has been its normal active self, meeting every first Wednesday of the month during term time in the school library. We started the year with the Welcome Breakfast and swept through the terms with 2 x Movie Nights, the Spring Breakfast, the Mothers Day gift, the P&C Levy, the Great Toy Swap, the Halloween, the Band Concert and ended the year, as always, with the hugely successful Balmain Fun Run ("BFR"). And throughout the year, there was always the canteen!

Many parents throw themselves in to school activities such as reading in class or volunteering for school social functions. It is always great to see new faces and the real kick our kids get from seeing parents getting actively involved in their school. The teachers really appreciate all those who come along and help out at school and we at the P&C thrive and survive on the generosity of your time at a specific event - even if it is just once over the school year.

This year, specific class years were asked to organise various P&C events. We have learned a lot from that experience and shall prepare a series of "running sheets" to help all our volunteers as much as possible in 2015. Plus, we shall be allocating events in a P&C Calendar from the start of the year, so everyone knows what is coming and when. But more on that later....

All the hard work certainly paid off. The P&C started the year with just over \$55K in the bank and we end the year with a little over \$32K (after accounting for expenditure approved and monies raised not yet banked).

During the year the P&C raised a phenomenal **\$73,848** - from the P&C Levy, canteen, fund raiser events and the BFR.

During 2014, the P&C approved expenditure of **\$95K** on improving school facilities and on a wide variety of resources in support of the education of our children.

The list of purchases approved by the P&C in 2014 include: final payment for 32 x laptops (and associated docking stations); maths equipment for all classes; another smart board (another?!); class readers for the littlies; art resources for all classes; new library books for the new library; reading tables for all classes; A/C for the Green Room; new sports equipment; new curtains for the stage; new blinds for the hall and for some classrooms; financial support for the recorder lessons; new instruments for the band and school music programme; iPod docks for all classrooms; the portable PA system we all now love; an upgrade of the Herb Garden; sandstone walls in the playground; chess storage; new shelving and cupboards; Stages 1 and 2 of the canteen upgrade (costs shared with the Eaton Street Centre [ESC] before and after school care); the BFR storage shed; and finally, a new BBQ for future sausage sizzles. And I have probably missed out a few things...

In addition, the P&C underwrote the current (and hugely successful) iPad drive for the school. The work by Carla on initiating the whole concept and taking it forward has been incredible.

All of this only really happens because you, as parents, give your time and support. We end the year in a better place than where we started and with a series of initial funding priorities for 2015.

I would like to thank all parents who support the school and the P&C in every way and we look forward to your continued support in 2015. There are too many individuals to mention as all volunteers deserve a pat on the back. Having said that, the BFR (so incredibly well run by Trudy) and the canteen (Van) are worth special mention, as are the P&C Exec (Kim, Cliff, Andrea and David/John). All work tirelessly behind the scenes and make a major impact on the school. To all those involved - at any level - in the P&C, a heartfelt thanks. You know who you are.

A deservedly more detailed report on the 2014 BFR shall appear in the New (academic) Year.

Next year we intend to hit the ground running. On **27 February 2015** we shall be holding a BPS P&C Parents Only Evening to celebrate the opening of the new Library and the arrival of the first iPads. So **save the date**, come and celebrate and hear what is in store for next year....

Thank you for all your support of the P&C in 2014.

See you in 2015

**Rob Bennett, BPS P&C President**