



Firstly, thank you, thank you, thank you! To a wonderful and generous community, and a great team. 2022 was a huge success because of you, and your passion, enthusiasm, and energy.

A special thank you to Principal Maria, Felicity Bowman and Nancy Ferguson who have been a tremendous support and who we have really enjoyed engaging and working with on common goals.

I was a new parent to the school last year and was excited to get involved in the P&C and the community. My late father was a teacher for over 50 years and dedicated the last 10 years of his life to teaching in indigenous communities in remote areas around Australia. Outside of my day job in the corporate world and night job as a Mum, I wanted to give back as well and make him proud. That was my Why for signing up and to be a part of the team.

I had the honour of attending a lot of school award ceremonies, presentations, assemblies, and special events, and I am so proud to have been involved with the school staff, the volunteers, students and the Balmain/Rozelle business community who have supported us.

One of the key highlights for me is our commitment to the environment and sustainability, and especially the efforts of the Environmental Warriors and school, to make the long-awaited garden project a reality.

A detailed report 'Helping Balmain Public School become a more sustainable school' was prepared for the P&C in March 2020 by a number of dedicated parents. This report outlined findings and recommendations which helped us going forward with this important project. As a result of the report, a focused subcommittee is being created this year to deliver on environmental initiatives as well as enhance existing projects.

It was a great year of collaborating with forerunners in the Inner West school community - namely Tempe and Kegworth public schools - to discuss common goals and ideas in addressing environmental and sustainability initiatives.

The Environmental Warriors hosted Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne and Jamie Parker MP to a morning tea where they shared their Dream Garden ideas and what environment and sustainability meant to them. Mayor Byrne and Jamie were invited and attended some of our events during the year to show their support and assisted with guidance in our quest for recycling bins for the school and in grant application processes.

The P&C, parents, carers, teachers and community raised an incredible **\$116,734.85** in fundraising and approved grant applications for the school. The grants prepared and submitted by the P&C will deliver funds to the total of **\$39,722** with one decision still pending from the Schools Upgrade Fund to improve student outcomes through outdoor learning, which if successful, will be a further \$25,000.

We put a large amount of time and effort into events during the year in order to bring the fun back post lockdown!

It was fantastic to see increased community and local business engagement which raised awareness and presence. Establishing and maintaining community and business relationships helped the P&C in much needed support and sponsorship to make our events profitable and successful. The newly proposed Local Business & Community Sub Committee should work to build on these past and new relationships so we can continue to work together for a mutual benefit. Our local business community could also be tapped into to enhance student learning and development as a resource or to act as mentors to support students on a project.

We surveyed Parents, Carers and Teachers to get a view of their key priorities and received over 100 responses. It was excellent to see such honesty and transparency in areas such as 1 – 3 Year initiatives and will be a helpful roadmap to assist in planning; communication preferences and how parents wish to be kept informed about P&C events and activities; How we can make our P&C Meetings more efficient, effective and interactive as well as Volunteering, Skill specific assistance, Technology, Environment & sustainability, Extra Curricular activities and feedback on how we are performing as a P&C.

The P&C provided **\$60,242** for Books & Classroom Supplies, Specialist reading support, Art Supplies, Sports Clothing and Vegetable Crates during the year, and it was great to see these put into action and the enthusiasm from the students when received.

We also identified some gaps and areas for improvement such as: the need to review the number and velocity of events in the year, sub committees (communications, administration, environment & sustainability and local business and community leadership), to maintain focus on key strategies.

There are some key initiatives that were discussed such as the Eaton Street transition to the P&C becoming the provider, increasing collaboration with the P&C Federation and other local school P&Cs and how we might work better together with our Class Reps on common goals.

Our fundraising achievements and our events could not have been such a success without the help from the parents and carers who volunteered their (and even their business's), time in assisting and running the uniform stall, cooking barbecues, coordinating events, putting up decorations and helping with the aftermath. A special thanks to Tara and Gabby who kicked off the year organising the Trivia Night and to the parents who helped serving; for Josie's efforts in curating the local art for our Art Show auction; for Louisa and Lyndsay who ran around on Art Show night keeping everyone fed and hydrated; and to Kristi and Lyndall who run the Uniform Store and to those parents who dedicate those Friday mornings assisting them. I would encourage everyone to get involved, the P&C needs your support, and we welcome any help no matter how big or small. A highlight for me was how the class reps; parents and community organisations got together to create our Family Fun Fair. I think you would agree that it was such an enjoyable day for the whole of the Balmain and Rozelle community and look forward to it to becoming a regular highlight for the community.

I think I can speak on behalf of the rest of the Executive Committee (most of us who were new), that it was a year to be proud of. It provided us with a huge sense of achievement, belonging, connections and the ability to give back to the school community.

Lastly, I want to say a huge thank you to the Executive team: Paul, Gemma, Nathalia, Renate, and Karen. I appreciate the endless hours you contributed to make the year what it was, and am grateful for your time, energy, and commitment. We might have fallen across the finish line by the time we reached the end of the year, but we accomplished a lot, had fun and made a difference. You are an amazing team of people, and I am grateful we got to work together.

I wish all the best to the 2023 Executive and subcommittee members.