

Presidents Report 2018

Dear Parents & Caregivers, School Board and Staff

This year has been a busy one of welcoming our new Principal and consolidating the Parents & Friends activities. Below is a summary of key Parents & Friends activities in the 12 months, during which the aim has been to help as many of the parent community as possible participate in and contribute to the vibrant life of the School, as well as to be a conduit for information about School matters that affect our precious children. We now have an established annual calendar of events that focuses firmly on community building, with fundraising added in.

Fundraising and use of funds

Each year Parents & Friends receives fundraising from the Parents & Friends Levy, and its fundraising activities. In the last 12 months Parents & Friends has given about \$185k to the School from these sources. As an Executive Committee we acknowledge that essentially we hold these funds on trust for the parent community and endeavour to use them wisely to promote the objectives of Parents & Friends in supporting the School community, and students in particular.

The Parents & Friends Executive Committee, in consultation with the Principal, determines the fundraising aim for the year. The principle is that the fundraising aim should benefit as many students as possible. The fundraising aim for the last few years has been to contribute to the School's extensive building program and playground works. The last part of that contribution, early this year, was around \$95k for an upgrade of the Senior School gym changing rooms.

Fundraising for the remainder of 2018 (and possibly 2019) will be for music and performance equipment. A contribution has been made towards stage boards for the music department and further investigations are being made into a lighting upgrade for the PAC.

Parents & Friends was also pleased to approve a \$2.5k contribution towards 37 Intermediate and Senior Band students attending the Port Macquarie 'Big Band Blast' in June. This was under the Parents & Friends Elite Sport and Arts Representation Support Policy under which any student (through staff) may apply to Parents & Friends for financial support to participate in their special events.

I acknowledge the excellent work of our Treasurer, Mrs Sajal Lodhia, and Fete Treasurer, Mrs Amy Richardson, in continuing to improve Treasury processes (building on great work by Ms Auerbach), with the help of Mr Bromley. We have also decided that Parents & Friends financials should continue to be separately audited (rather than just being included in the general School audit) to help ensure transparency. A big thank you to Mr Laurie Green for continuing to support the School by kindly carrying out the Parents & Friends audit pro bono, as he has for many years.

Gala dinner

A highlight of 2018 was the glittering Night in Hollywood gala dinner in August, featuring our top-hatted MCs, Mr Tolhurst and Mr Hosking, the frenetic energy of Austin Flowers and lots of dancing. The balloon pop raised about \$8k in a few minutes, and, as you will see from the Treasurer's Report, overall the event netted around \$18k. A huge thank you to Mrs Jen Bosilkovski, Mrs Susie Mitevski and Mrs Amy Richardson for their tireless work and good humour in pulling a fabulous event together.

Fete

After changing the date of last year's Fete and Open Day to accommodate the building works, the Fete Committee hit the ground running not long after last year's Fete, to start planning this year's event, which was held on its usual date - the day before Mother's Day (12 May). While the weather was not as we would have hoped, there was a wonderful community atmosphere and a healthy profit of around \$33k. There were a few changes this year including bringing in more outside food vendors to provide more choices, including more vegetarian options, which proved popular. Mrs Pam Buckle did a brilliant job in locking in a record number of external stall holders. The date for the Fete and Open Day is being held earlier next year, on Saturday 30 March, and the Fete Committee, ably led by Mrs Michelle Yee and Mrs Amanda Drury, with help from an array of hard working parents, look forward to a celebration of community. A shout out also to Mr Collins and his team for being unfailingly prompt and tireless in assisting the Fete Committee, literally rolling up their sleeves to help.

Other community activities

Community events this year have included the Movie Night in Term 1 and Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts. These are a great, free opportunity for the community, including children, to come together and are getting more popular every year. Mrs Meredith Laverty did a great job of pulling these events together and we can also thank her for ensuring mums and dads had beautiful gifts from the Mothers and Fathers Day stalls. The Executive Committee will be reviewing food service options next year to help ensure smooth service for parents, and looking at new ways to help encourage volunteers.

The Junior School end of year function for parents and teachers at Hazelhurst is entering its third year and is always a fantastic night in a beautiful setting. Last year was no exception, with a farewell to Mr Bowden featuring a special cocktail in his honour and glorious cake. We are looking forward to another excellent event this year on 16 November.

Over the years there has become a clearer role for Parent Year Representatives and I would like to acknowledge all those Year Representatives who put so much time and effort into co-ordinating contact lists, social events, volunteers and generally helping to keep parents informed and organised. Excellent work: we owe you a debt of thanks. A big thank you also to Mrs Dotte Derrickson and Mrs Amanda Drury who have worked hard as Junior and Senior School Parent Representative Co-ordinators to help support those Year Representatives.

We have also run our end of term coffee & cake catch-ups, and general meetings twice a term to which everyone is most welcome (Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons before pick-up). This is a great way to hear what is happening at the School and have a chance to ask questions of the Principal and have a say. Dates are on the Parents & Friends webpage.

In terms of advocacy on behalf of the parent community:

- in consultation with the Principal who also made representations, I was involved in writing to Transport for NSW in relation to the bus incident earlier in the year, and thank Mrs Jeanine Hamilton for helping to drive that enquiry. Transport for NSW have been subsequently reviewing bus services and have been liaising with the Principal in this regard; and
- Dr Pietsch and I attended a meeting with the Premier of NSW and representatives of other local schools, to discuss matters affecting school staff and students. Following a query from Dr Pietsch, there was an excellent discussion on supporting mental health in students, with a general acceptance that more needed to be done in this regard.

Thank you

This AGM I am stepping down as President after 3 years in that role and 5 years total on the Executive Committee. I hope that the ongoing governance improvements (including new Constitution and processes), renewed focus on community and wide variety of activities form a solid foundation going forward for Parents & Friends to continue supporting the School and its community. It has been a hugely rewarding experience for me and I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of getting to know so many fabulous staff, parents and students. I would like to thank in particular:

- all the children who have painted artworks; helped host events; served food; stacked chairs; cleaned up; given great performances at Parents & Friends events – you are ultimately the reason Parents & Friends exists and we hope we have done you justice. You are a credit to the School and your parents
- all the other marvellous volunteers who give up so much of their time and provide donations to support the School in so many ways
- the Executive Committee who have been tireless in their work, and wonderful company on the journey (with some, like Mrs Tardent and the Yee family who have been involved for many years)
- Dr Pietsch (and before him, Mr Bowden), Mr Collins and Mr Coote for always being receptive to ideas, warm and welcoming, and forthcoming in answering all our questions (and apologies for keeping you from your families on meeting nights!) – we couldn't ask for a more supportive leadership team
- the inspiring School staff who have accommodated Parents & Friends activities with such good grace and assistance, with a special acknowledgement to:
 - Mrs Davies for supporting the artworks projects
 - Mr Bromley for all his finance expertise and practical help
 - Mrs Clement and Mrs McGrath in the Communications Office for whom nothing is too much trouble and who have been an unfailing source of assistance, good cheer and laughter; you are truly amazing.

Inaburra has a unique, warm, inclusive and vibrant culture and I look forward to seeing Parents & Friends continuing to contribute to that over the years.

Best wishes


Barbara Curtis
President

Inaburra School Parents & Friends Association

23 October 2018