President’s Report for Annual General Meeting 25 February 2014

Summary

It has been a good year for the P&C – we started as a mainly new Executive and Non-Executive and have given a lot of thought as to how the P&C can best serve the school. We instigated a number of initiatives that I feel have been very successful, the main one being improving communication with the school community.

We have reinvigorated a range of committees, including Technology and Fundraising, and introduced new committees such as Grants. We sought more feedback from the school community, including parents and teachers, and are using this information to inform our future. We have also had to look at our constitution and reporting requirements as the P&C had been operating under incorrect information in the past. This year has been one of change where we have had to look more seriously at the economic effectiveness of activities that we undertake and I believe that we are in a good position for 2014.

Major expenditure this year has included $17,000 towards class sets of ipads as well as co-contribution commitments to a number of projects around the school such as improved seating and maintenance of the softfall area under the play equipment. We have approximately $100,000 put aside as a contribution for the Multipurpose Resource Room, which will be our major building project for 2014.

Thank you to the P&C Executive: Meredith Holt and Phil Morley as Vice Presidents, Hans Thomsen as Treasurer and Morelle Reeves as Secretary; as well as to the three non-executive members Carey Francis, Maya Gomez and Julie Ward. We farewell Phil as Vice President – his calm demeanour and ability to strategically hone in on the issues has been of immeasurable value. We also farewell Hans who has steered the Treasurer role calmly through many years and was tremendously supportive, patient and enthusiastic in working with a new Executive.
Overview of Committees

The range of P&C Committees grew in 2013 with each headed by enthusiastic and highly competent parents.

- Band: under its strong leadership from Rod Sharples, 2013 was another successful year. Rod is retiring after 5 years in the job and I thank him for his wonderful contribution. The Band committee is an autonomous and high functioning committee that runs the three bands. 2014’s intake is large, proving how attractive the program is for kids at BRPS. Jane Stormon will be the new co-ordinator.

- Uniform shop: range of new initiatives and products this year under Kim Roberts, who has done a wonderful job organising and streamlining the shop. Kim handed over to Helen Tan at the end of 2013. The Uniform Sub-Committee met all year, firstly sorting out the problem with the original supplier of the new sports uniform (a full refund on faulty product was successfully sought in April) and then continuing with the review of the uniform that began at the start of 2012. Thank you to Leanne Power and Jennifer McCormick for their support and even-headedness during some turbulent moments.

- Canteen: the canteen menu had been modified in previous years, which contributed to the significant loss in 2012. This year the same menu has been continued, but without the daily specials ie all food is available every day. Jenny Powell finished as the co-ordinator and has done a wonderful job on the menu. Elle Turchini is the new co-ordinator and is focusing on the efficiencies of running the canteen – we are committed to keeping the canteen as a 5 day profitable operation. We opened the canteen Friday afternoons in Term 4, which proved a great success. I am very pleased to announce that the Canteen made a profit in 2013. Thank you to Veronica Tennock for running the roster and all the parents who come in to help out.

- Class parent network: Julie Ward took over as co-ordinator in 2013 and did a wonderful job in disseminating information and being there to assist class parents, as well as looking at the range of activities to see where improvements could be made. Thank you to all the Class Parents who made 2013 such a successful year. We held a coffee and cake night this year as a thank you, which we will continue in years to come.

- Fundraising: a group of dedicated parents joined the newly resurrected committee this year and ran two very successful events. Christmas in July, organised by Kari Berg and Maya Gomez, was a fun and carefree night. The 60th Anniversary Gala Day, led by Meredith Holt and Linda Hutton and a huge group of dedicated parents, was a tremendous success and raised $42,000, which is a fantastic effort for a small school. We used the school Bulletin to thank parent helpers and sponsors. It is important to find the right balance of fundraising and this year we sought more external donations and sponsorship from local business, as well as asking families to contribute more in selling raffle tickets than they have been asked in the past (the
raffle raised $15,500 and it was wonderful to see the majority of students and families support this endeavour). This committee managed to operate without a co-ordinator in 2013 – Guy Winslow has agreed to be the co-ordinator for 2014.

- Grant: was formed this year with Jasna Sims as the co-ordinator, who has had wonderful success in securing 2 grants from the KMC grant pool. $2,500 for a mural and $2,000 for ipads specifically for the additional learning needs students. In 2014 we will continue to apply for grants where appropriate as well as participating in other initiatives run by organisations. Thank you to the Mural Sub-Committee (parents Morelle Reeves, Marion Doull and Tara Hannon and teacher representative Tanya Fritsch) which is on track for producing a fabulous mural in 2014.

- Technology: this committee was also formed this year with Carey Francis introducing online ordering for canteen and uniform. The introduction of Flexischools has gone very smoothly, with positive feedback from parents. For 2014 the technology committee will go on hiatus until another need arises.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who help in the canteen and the uniform shop each week. The P&C relies on dedicated volunteers and it is heartening to know that we can still operate with very few paid employees. Looking after our volunteers, recognising their efforts and ensuring that they are deployed appropriately will be our ongoing commitment to them.

Other activities for 2013

In March a very successful family evening night was organised with Interrelate where families attended with their children for a sex education talk (Years 3/4) and a puberty talk (Years 5/6).

A range of ongoing school based programs were implemented throughout the year to great success, these included:

- school holiday programs (thank you to Maya Gomez)
- before school soccer (thank you to Susan Mills)
- scholastic book club (thank you to Julie Boehm)
- school banking (thank you to Yvonne Grey)

The P&C opened the canteen and cooked a breakfast BBQ at the Bivouac, which successfully contributed to the great sense of school community that surrounds the Bivouac.

The School Council met throughout the year and it was a great privilege to sit on the Council with staff and parent representatives. We had a good win with the changes to the parking situation in front of the school. I believe it is very important to have a strong School Council that the P&C is able to support.
A Teacher’s Afternoon Tea was held in October. On behalf of the entire school, we extended our thanks and gratitude towards the wonderful teachers and staff at BRPS. Thank you to Julie Ward for co-ordinating the fun circus themed celebration and to all those parents who supplied delicious, and plentiful, food. We have decided to keep this as a P&C led event for 2014.

In keeping with our new marketing strategies, Annelise Woo Ruiz designed a fabulous new logo for the BRPS P&C which has allowed us to present a more professional front in dealing with internal and external stakeholders.

Throughout 2013 Tara Hannon and I attended the District P&C meetings as delegates from BRPS. This opportunity allowed us to network with other P&C organisations. It also provided a platform to raise the deficiencies in public school funding for students with additional learning needs and to seek much needed change.

In November we held a daytime P&C meeting, which provided an opportunity for parents who are unable to attend evening meetings to come along and participate in the P&C. Student Representatives Paris and Sachin provided an overview of the SRC and gave a student perspective about a number of issues. We were unable to reach quorum at this meeting, so will need to consider this for similar meetings in 2014.

To round out the year we held an end of year P&C dinner, which was a great way to celebrate such a successful year.

**Outstanding issue: wind-up of the BRPS OOSH**

The old BRPS OOSH organisation was slated to be wound-up by September. This unfortunately had not occurred by the end of 2013. Meredith Holt and myself met with the relevant parents early in the year and I became a member of the OOSH Committee at their AGM. A range of parents offered assistance in the wind-up process. This will be a priority for 2014.

**Major Aims for 2014**

Convene a Building Committee for the building of a Multipurpose Resource Room.

Create a working model for external sponsorship/donations that builds on the new relationships we have been developing with local businesses.

Change the BRPS P&C Constitution to ensure we are operating correctly.

Update BRPS P&C Roles and Responsibilities in line with the new Constitution.

Assist in the wind-up of the BRPS OOSH organisation.
Conclusion

This is my first year as the P&C President and the amount of support I have received from parents, teachers, staff, students and particularly BRPS Principal Malcolm McDonald has been fantastic. I have very much wanted to implement an open and transparent organisation that operates in a harmonious way across all the school years here at BRPS – I believe 100% in inclusivity and hope that I have demonstrated this.

We have branded ourselves as Your P&C and trust that we have fulfilled this promise in 2013.

Emma Bromley
BRPS P&C President
25 February 2014