

Bathurst High Campus P&C Association

AGM 2.3.11

President's Report

The P&C Association of Bathurst High Campus commenced 2010 with the knowledge that some changes and tough decisions would need to be made in order to survive and hopefully evolve. I feel after 12 months as President of the P&C that, unlike the dinosaurs, we have achieved this and our future directions and goals are clearer.

Obviously the biggest step for us was relinquishing operation and management of the school canteen. The decision to put the canteen to tender not only had financial implications for the P&C but there were emotional issues relating to the history and tradition of the school "tuck shop". A little research revealed that there are many, many schools, both public and private who are finding themselves in the same situation. As we enter the second decade of the 21st Century, the reality is that volunteer-run school canteens are a thing of the past. I am confident we made the right decision. There are many people who were instrumental in getting us to this point but I would like to thank the following people in particular:- Geoff Hastings for his ongoing support, Wendy Ross, Noel Cuttiford, Les Gardner, Murray Jewkes, Darlene Macri, Wendy Inwood, Jo Gardiner and the volunteers who kept us running for so long.

Another great example of outsourcing has been the establishment of the on site uniform shop. Thanks to Denise Chapman for getting the ball rolling on this and to Darlene and the uniform committee members. To Mandy and her team of helpers, keep up the good work!

With the strong growth of our school we have once again brought a focus on the fight to get what most other high schools take for granted – a gym. Both candidates in the State Elections have been made aware of our case but it is essential that we keep the pressure on politically following the State Elections. We have been lobbying for a gym for more years than most people care to count but the current size of our school puts us in the strongest position yet to press our case.

Once again in 2010 we managed to hold a successful Trivia Night. This was despite the fact that I didn't have a clue what I was doing and by the end of the night had no voice to explain this (many saw this as a blessing) so my thanks to the many people who did help make it happen. (Note to self: hold Trivia night this year before Wendy and Geoff go overseas.)

Part of the P&C evolution process must be to continue to develop the P&C as a communication forum between families and the school. Our children are being

educated in a public education climate that not only values input from parents, students and families but relies on it. At Bathurst High we are fortunate to have a Principal and staff who embrace this philosophy wholeheartedly. I see the P&C association as a prime facilitator of this communication process – “Come along to P&C for the who, what, when, where and why of BHC!”

In closing, I would like to thank Geoff and his staff for their support of the P&C (and for responding to my endless emails). My year as president was made infinitely easier through the help and encouragement of the two “old hands”, Murray Jewkes and Les Gardner. This will be the final P&C year these two dads (they have not been open to my suggestions of adopting 12 year olds to keep them here) and I think they have earned the right to step back from their current roles.

Finally thank you to all the members who turn up to our meetings – there wouldn't be a P&C without you!