



**Stella Maris Catholic Primary School  
Parents and Friends Association 2017 - Annual General Meeting  
Principal's Report**

*The aim of P&F fundraising is to improve and develop the external environment at Stella Maris through fundraising and social activities so that the school budget can be fully utilized to maximise student learning inside the buildings!*

Our P&F executive continue to create an inclusive environment for parents to get involved, have fun, and raise funds for our schools external environment. I am incredibly grateful to Katrina, Rachel and Steph for continuing the strong tradition of parents volunteering and leading at Stella Maris. I have trusted them, I have advised them, I have delegated and discussed confidential matters with confidence and I have learned from them at the same time. These three talented and generous women have kept a diverse team moving forward, with a clear focus and enthusiasm. They have been positive and patient with the nuances of the people in our community so that voices are heard, whilst remaining determined and committed to improving Stella Maris. I hope they feel they have even developed themselves along the way.

I want to recognize and thank the committee members. These included Narelle Watt, Theresa Gloembioski, Bec Vella, Laura Afferi, Jess de Boer, Giuli Dumble, Maria Chetcuti, Veronica Thomas, Angela Gillett, Olivia Prestinenzi, Liz Wallace, Liz Bowman, Krissy Breytenbach, Meg Burrett, Olivia Spiridonos, Esther Pretorius, Noelene Schaeche, Christine Toon, Susan Alvear, Inez Perera, Janine Miller, Claudia Olguin, Mary Wardyasekera and Helen Corke. All of the committee members did work behind the scenes that none of us saw, including managing busy families so they could be part of the P&F. They were also ever present around our school, chatting away, planning, hunting for help, emailing, texting or just smiling and waving.

There were many other parents, who brought positive attitudes and generous efforts to our P&F events. It is impossible to mention those people by name but as I always say, "we could not do what we do without you!"

We again implemented a formula with incredibly diverse, well organized, accessible and profitable events including, Mothers/Fathers day breakfast and gift stall, Mothers day Fun Run, Hot Dog Days, Disco night, World Teachers Day celebration, raffles and foundation morning teas and welcoming of new families.

**OUR AMAZING TOTALS:** On completion of the year we have achieved an amazing fundraising total, once again well over our set target.

- Our 2016 overall figure was approximately **\$51,000** (including 2016 Fun Day). Our target was \$35000.
- Our 2016 Fun Day figure was approximately **\$29,000**
- Our 2017 Fun Day figure was approximately **\$30,000**. Our target for this year is only \$35000. With activities that are already planned who knows what 2017 will bring?

Our most significant event, the Fun Day was once again outstanding. Narelle and Teresa went back to back! They led the team through the pressure of the last month. These two mums, with the support of their husbands, Duncan and Joe, and their kids, made the day possible. They dealt with the work and the risks and should be incredibly proud of the result. On behalf of the whole community I thank them once again for the big things we saw and the little things we didn't, that made our Fun Day amazing.

The expertise and capacity of the Fun Day, committee to make their sub teams successful made the day a huge team effort. Congrats Katrina, Rachel, Steph, Giuliana, Veronica, Bec, Laura, Krissy, Liv, Leanne, Susan, Christine, Esther, Noelene, Sally, Janine and Maria. Your generosity was unrelenting!

- There total yearly contribution of approximately \$51000 to the school from P&F funds raised included:
  - The completion and closing of the Outdoor Play Equipment loan. The loan, initially made by the school on behalf of the P&F, when the school was in its first year.
  - The final stages of the swale planting and painting. Students are already in the area for learning based activities. Free play will begin once the plants are mature enough.
  - Planting and irrigating the new garden beds across the eastern boundary.
  - Revamping the "Drop off and Pick up" zone.
  - Updating tools and supplies for the farm and improve all garden beds, compost some of the garden beds, plant new fruit trees.

- Remodeling and refilling the sand pits and mulching the garden beds in the central pathway and rear entrance area of the school.
- Hiring the required equipment to carry out works.
- Building up a variety of equipment to support the students to water, mulch, weed, etc around the school in a safe and effective manner as part of our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program and our Senior Community Sustainability actions.

Every day there are volunteers making a difference all around Stella Maris in many different ways. Some of these ways are subtle and others are high profiled and challenging. I offer parents the opportunity to be in partnership with staff and other parents at Stella Maris in significant ways. We have such amazing talent and skill amongst our community it would be negligent to not work together in such a way. The satisfaction of achievement, the enjoyment of seeing the students start to take responsibility for the swale and the farm through 'Sustainability' and 'Kitchen Garden' sessions, playing in the 'gaga pits' or sitting comfortably under a tree makes it all very special.

I want to take this opportunity to also clarify two points I have been asked recently or over the past couple of years:

- Our sponsorship program continues to raise funds whilst supporting local business profiles in the community. Barry Plant were once again our major sponsor.
- Tuckshop profits are P&F profits. I employ a manager/s to run the administration and volunteer aspects. Once this staffing component and costs are deducted the profit made is counted as funds raised for P&F by the volunteers who participate each week.

The funds raised by the P&F are used to create the grounds master plan (November 2013 Landscape Plan).

- **THE COMPLETED WORKS P&F FUNDS HAVE PAID FOR**
  - New parking area at the front of the school
  - Senior amphitheater area
  - Farm including animal enclosures, produce areas, outdoor kitchen area
  - Central Pathway
  - GaGa pits
  - Swale (dry creek bed)  
The cost of the swale has now been more than \$100000. This includes the design and construction drawings, earthworks, wooden structures, plants, rocks etc. I used the school budget to complement the P&F funds transferred across in December 2015 so that we could get the majority of work done at the best price possible instead of accumulating additional costs associated with building it in smaller sections. These savings were immense. We believe the savings were approximately \$80,000. I consider the additional funds drawn from other areas of the school budget to have been repaid.
  - Revamped "Pick up" and "Drop off" zone.
- **THE PARTLY COMPLETED WORKS P&F FUNDS HAVE PAID FOR**
  - Garden beds and screening on eastern boundary
  - Sandpits with rock edging
- **YET TO BE COMPLETED WORKS THAT P&F FUNDS WILL PAY FOR**
  - Friendship garden
  - Sensory garden
  - Large group active play – footy and soccer goals
  - Irrigation for oval areas
  - Outside Art space
  - Further creation of landscaping and planting
- **NEW IDEAS TO BE CONSIDERED:**
  - Outdoor Play Pod
  - Gravel space between juniors and hall (to be completed as part of building works and not funded by P&F funds)



On behalf of everyone, thank you and congratulations to our P&F Executive and their team. On behalf of our students, thanks to all families, volunteers, sponsors and supporters of the Stella Maris P&F. Our external school grounds will continue to grow quickly through the ongoing contribution of our funds raised.

I will continue to support the P&F team in the most positive form possible, staying in close and regular communication with members of the team but also entrusting them with a level of decision making that empowers them to make a significant and enjoyable contribution to our community, its financial health and the development of the school grounds.

I will continue to expect staff to be encouraging of P&F efforts and committed to improving our school. I expect them to actively support and have a presence at P&F events, bringing their own passion and skills to the partnership.

Stephen Harrison  
Principal  
Stella Maris Catholic Primary School.