

The Gap State High School P&C Association – ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Treasurer – Jenny McLucas

The 2012 year was a busy one with lots of changes. Tuckshop, Uniform Shop and Stationery Shops were all down on the budget, due to various reasons explained in more detail below. Our big project last year was obviously the Tuckshop renovations to self-service. The 2012 budget did have expenditure for the Hall Courtyard Roof, which has been put on hold at the moment with the sports hall and other projects. Overall, comparing budget to actual for 2012, we were pretty accurate though, as our proposed surplus funds were \$76,527 and our actual surplus funds were \$63,591.

The Tuckshop has done well this year, with the move to self-service proving a successful one. Although turnover was down whilst temporarily trading in the hall during the renovations, there was definitely an increase in the latter part of the year once it was up and running with August especially bringing in close to \$25,000. Last year the ladies also started catering for various school functions and this has brought in some extra revenue as well as letting Tracy and Vanessa showcase their excellent baking skills!

I congratulate all the tuckshop staff and volunteers on their efforts throughout the year in trying to keep the Tuckshop both cost effective and interesting to the kids.

The Uniform Shop has also done well this year, even with the necessity of remitting 10% of our sales in GST.

The Uniform Working Group was set up in 2012 to address the concerns over the amount of stock being held and changing some of the uniforms such as the girl's blouse style and adding the logo to the boy's senior shirts. As a result of this Working Group, the girls blouse style is now finalised and will be purchased this year in the next order. The logo for the boy's shirt is now to go to the school community for further discussion. There have also been some changes to pricing in the hope of selling off some of the slower moving stock. I congratulate the Uniform Working Group for all their efforts this year.

I have investigated getting air conditioning into the Uniform Shop in the 2013 year. An upgrade of electricity is required to achieve this and I have therefore budgeted \$5,000 towards this (\$2,500 for the unit and \$2,500 for the upgrade).

Again I commend Renuka and Britta and all the volunteers for all their hard work in the uniform shop throughout the year.

The Stationery Shop ran below budget for the 2012 year due to the small take-up of Year 8 stationery kits at the beginning of that year. The move to the end of the Tuckshop has worked well though and the 2013 year should see an increase in sales.

Cash on Hand - the end of 2012 saw the P&C with around \$77,000 on hand, and our \$100,000 QTC loan is now down to around \$67,900 as we continue to make quarterly instalments. Our aim for this year is to assist the school with various projects where we can, including the upgrade to the Hall and Auditorium sound systems and lighting. Judy Ives and I are looking at the school and P&C jointly applying for a \$35,000 Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant. We have met with Behind the Scenes and briefed them on our requirements. We are still waiting for the quotes on this work.

Further, as we will not know whether we are successful in gaining the grant until the second half of the year, I am not in a position to advise any specific amounts that will be required. Accordingly, I propose that an amount of \$50,000 be budgeted under the heading P&C

Projects (this includes the \$5,000 uniform shop air conditioning mentioned above and possible donation towards air conditioning for the new Year 7 classrooms). When we have further information throughout the year, we will bring it to the P&C for further discussion. Even with budgeting \$50,000, there should still be over \$30,000 surplus funds at the end of the year.

President – Steve Bennett

Our main achievement during 2012 was the conversion of the Tuckshop into a self-service canteen. This was an extremely successful project. We achieved all our objectives in terms of improved service levels, increased revenue (without increased prices) and improved workplace health and safety. We are also delighted that the project came in on time and on budget. In that regard we are indebted to our builder, Harvey Lee of Concept Carpentry.

We are also very well served by the dedicated team of employees and volunteers who run the tuckshop, stationery and uniform shops. These businesses are our primary source of income and they enable us to support a wide range of very valuable activities within the school including chaplaincy, performing arts, sport and the school communications officer role. I encourage all parents to continue supporting these businesses.

I want to particularly congratulate our Tuckshop convenors Tracy and Vanessa for achieving the excellent result of having the Tuckshop awarded a 4 Star rating from the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops in recognition of our healthy menu. Consequently, our Tuckshop made the finals in the Queensland “Tuckshop of the Year” awards.

Looking to the future, our current major project is, of course, the Sports Hall. This is a very exciting development and I want to publicly acknowledge the funding that is being provided for that project by the State Government and thank our local member for his personal support in helping us secure that funding. Although this is now a departmental project, we have a P & C task group working with school administration to ensure that the school community continues to have input into the design and construction process.

Our POPARTS sub-committee has continued to perform very strongly this year. I congratulate Janice Maybury on her dedicated and energetic leadership of that sub-committee. Her report speaks for itself. SHAPE has had a more difficult year. Unfortunately we have struggled to find sufficient parent volunteers to keep it functioning effectively. Consequently we made the difficult decision to suspend its operation for the time being. Hopefully the new year will bring with it some new enthusiasm from within the parent body so we can reinvigorate this important aspect of school life. I anticipate that the impending development of the sports hall may act as a catalyst for this.

Tuckshop – Vanessa King and Tracy Bowcock

2013 was a very busy year for The Gap SHS Tuckshop. After a major renovation to become self-serve we are extremely pleased to say the Tuckshop is running to its full capacity.

The renovations have so much improved the day to day running of the Tuckshop and also mean we are able to serve the crowds so much quicker. The positive feedback from the students and volunteers has been very positive.

The new industrial oven is just perfect. This new addition has made cooking and preparing food so much easier and quicker. This is also due to having an amazing band of volunteers who are the backbone of this Tuckshop. Without them we would cease to exist. We are very fortunate to have so many new recruits this year, and Tracy and I are very thankful.

We have also earned numerous points through Quality Foods, our major supplier to the Tuckshop. We earned \$500 and Tracy and I made a wish list and obtained much needed equipment for our kitchen. We also received a \$200 bonus which will come in handy for a rainy day.

Our menu is now streamlined, with one for summer and one for winter. This has been updated on the school website and seems to be getting positive feedback. Tracy and I are always looking for new ideas and we do try and introduce trial dishes and ask our biggest critics (the students!) what they think. We also take into consideration it has to be healthy and nutritious.

Our catering abilities have spread through the school and we are becoming something of a legend!! This is becoming quite a nice little profit maker to say the least for the school.

Last year The Gaps SHS Tuckshop made a name for itself, as we achieved four out of five stars for our healthy and interesting menu. This was a great achievement as we became a finalist in Tuckshop of the Year. Our volunteer of the year Kathy Robertson, who we nominated, was able to earn herself a certificate of appreciation. We are extremely fortunate to have the ability to move forward and make this High School Tuckshop a great success.

Last but not least I want to thank Tracy, my co-convenor who has taken over this job with great skill and professionalism. We would also like to thank our two assistants Kathy and Jackie who make our lives so much easier with their hard work and amazing ability to stay calm and carry on! Then there is Britta who is always there when we need her.

We are looking forward to a very successful 2013 and hoping to become Tuckshop of The Year this time around!

Uniform Shop – Renuka Nathan and Britta Kammann

2012 was another busy year at the Uniform Shop. At the beginning of the year we had opened the Uniform Shop for two weeks before the school term, to cater for new and current students purchasing uniforms.

Later in the month we had international students and music students purchasing their respective uniforms, and during the cooler months, we had an increase in the purchasing of jumpers and sweatshirts. Throughout the year we assisted POPARTS in various events, such as selling tickets for Trivia Night and Cabaret Night.

With the transition of the Year 7 students into High School in 2013, a uniform committee was formed to consider various uniform changes and pricing. We are glad that the style of the girls blouse will change into a better fit. We also discussed and agreed upon a thicker material for the blouses and shirts. With regard to our sun safety policy, the bucket hats now have a broader brim.

Before the end of the school term, we had placed orders for uniforms for 2013. We had also processed and priced second-hand uniforms, and did our annual stock take.

We thank the P&C especially Jenny McLucas and Peter Rolls for their continuing support throughout 2012. We also take this opportunity to thank our wonderful and dedicated volunteers.

SHAPE

SHAPE subcommittee was in recess during the latter half of 2012; but has met already in 2013 and will re-establish a Committee at the 2013 AGM

Stationery Shop – Kathy Robertson

After a bit of an unsettled year in 2012 with having to run from the hall kitchen for a term while the Tuckshop was being renovated, it is very nice to be settled in as part of the Tuckshop and close to the Uniform shop.

We sold about 20 more Year 8 Kits than last year, and also about 40 Year 7 Kits. Having the EFTPOS machine made a huge difference for the holiday opening times. The Gap Newsagency did a great job supplying us and it was cheaper to buy the kits from us than from other suppliers.

I have had a good response from new volunteers for this year and having the Tuckshop ladies as backup works well so we can be open every morning.

Hopefully I have enough stock to last the rest of the year which will mean we can offer cheaper prices than other suppliers for the rest of the year.

POPARTS – Janice Maybury

During 2012 The Gap SHS Arts department has again been very busy and successful. As usual the year started with a great Music Camp where the Year 8-12 students were placed into their Ensemble groups, practicing and having a wonderful social time. The Arts Captains again did a great job providing the entertainment activities for the evenings.

The year followed with many performances at Creative Generations, April Fair, Ashgrove Fete, Anzac Day, Open Day, Cabaret Night, Fanfare, QYMA, Speech Night, Gig at the Gap and end of year concerts. The Drama evenings were well attended as were the Art Camp, Reelies & Artskape and Xmas in July. Other highlights included the Deep Blue Concert and Percussion One's performance and success at the Australian National Percussion Eisteddfod.

The students have all progressed very well with their music and performance skills and achieved well at the AMEB Theory exams. We'd like to commend the Arts Captains Julian Sharp and Emma Caskey for their successful year and the continuation of the very popular and amazing Talent Quest.

Our fundraising events (Trivia Night, Deep Blue and Cabaret Night) were all very successful and helped to increase the funds which we can now use for supporting our various activities:

- assisting in funding extra conductors and accompanists
- buying equipment such as portable staging and steps for the Hall and Auditorium
- supporting travel to various performances
- fitting out extra practice rooms in 2013
- funding breakfasts and Gig at The Gap beverages and food
- improving the sound system and projector in the Auditorium
- purchasing music scores
- fund Workshops from Topology and Deep Blue

Thanks to the P&C and school for their financial and general support of the Arts Department. The POPARTS Committee would also like to thank the many and generous helpers who have assisted with numerous kitchen duties and hall decorations and great ideas at our meetings during the year. We would not be able to support the program as we do without their smiling faces and helpful hands.

Opening balances for 2012 = \$4,443.88 + \$21,687 (Investment account)

Final balances for Dec 2012 = \$10,579.87 + \$29,687 (Investment account)

Chaplaincy – Guy Hawkins

Chaplain: Guy Hawkins, Fulltime Community and Government Funded

The following is a report on the major roles and responsibilities of the chaplains with the addition of a few examples of different events and activities the chaplains are involved with. If you have any further questions about the chaplaincy program please give Guy a call (3511 3812) or email ghawk13@eg.edu.au.

Overview 2012: during 2012 Chaplaincy experienced a decrease in community funding for chaplain's salaries. We are continuing to develop fundraising activities with our major ReNew chaplaincy night happening in May. At the 2012 ReNew event we raised approximately \$20,000 which was adequate to keep a fulltime service operational for another 12 months. ReNew 2013 is happening on 24 May and The Premier of Queensland has accepted our invitation to attend.

At the end of Term 3 2012, Sonja Beveridge finished her role of 2 day per week chaplaincy. Sonja was a great 'chappy' and it was sad to see her go. However we wished her the best in her decision. As a result, the chaplaincy service has returned to 1 full-time chaplain at the school 5 days per week. Our hope is to be able to continue this current service.

Pastoral Care: the needs and challenges of our school community (students, staff and families) continue to be the main focus of the chaplain's role. During 2012 there continued to be a range of social and emotional problems presenting themselves. As chaplain, I strive to do all that I can to support people through their challenges and although we are not always able to "fix" problems, we pull alongside, listen, care and support people. Challenges that I have assisted students and staff with in 2012 include family breakdowns; grief and loss - including terminal illnesses; relational issues; substance misuse; mental health; and school refusal.

Regular sessions with some students have resulted in better school connectedness and stability. Students are also referred to the Guidance officer and other professional helpers. I am in regular conversation with the Guidance officer and school administration with issues regarding student wellbeing. Practical support and care was also delivered to students and families through the P&C Family Assistance fund.

Following the relocation to a new room in 2011, 2012 saw the students "adopting" this space during breaks. A great problem to have was the number of students wanting to come in and "hang out". As result of this problem, I was able to connect with some students who were initially more hesitant. Thanks to a very generous staff member the chappy's room was fitted out with a pool table. This has been a great tool, especially for students who find it difficult to articulate their difficulties. It is amazing how people can open up when they are comfortably shooting pool with their chaplain.

My approach to pastoral care at The Gap is not limited to responding to issue and challenges only. I believe that my proactive approach to the school community's wellbeing is just as effective. From building solid relationship with students, staff and the community and working closely with the school's Guidance Officer, Administration, Year Level Coordinators and GOALS teachers, Chaplaincy is hopefully helping to nurture student wellbeing.

The Chaplain's Award was introduced in 2012. This award is presented to a Year 12 student at graduation if public acknowledgement is suitable. The criterion of the award is fluid, however it relates to the acknowledgment of a graduating student who has overcome

difficulties in their schooling life. It was a great moment at graduation when the Year 12 cohort gave the recipient a massive cheer as he received the award. The award consisted of a certificate and a gift, provided by the Local Chaplaincy Committee. This was also a personal highlight for me as I had worked closely with this student on his journey from Year 8 to 12; a tear jerking moment not just for me, but for teachers who had invested in the student.

Spirituality: embedded in the GOALS program and in tune with the school motto of Educating the whole person, Chaplaincy continued to deliver the spirituality program to Year 10 and 11. Year 10 focuses on values and beliefs, while Year 11 engages in spirituality using a World View Framework. The students are encouraged to explore and discover their own spirituality through discussion in small groups. Volunteers from the community come in to engage and lead these discussions. The strength of the program lies in the format of small group discussion.

Once again in 2012 the student response to the program was in the majority positive one; some negative or challenging comments surfaced because the students are encouraged out of their comfort zone. I believe that the opportunity for students to sit and converse with others regardless of the topic and without the pressure of needing to retain information, has a positive impact on the social tone in the school

The following is some feedback from the students:

- *I thought it was really interesting to see other people's point of views and beliefs.*
- *I thought it was a good experience and it made me think about lots of different things that I might not have thought about, otherwise. It was also good to hear other's opinions and views and compare and manipulate my own accordingly.*
- *Very Fun. I liked it because it was a time to relax and talk about "deep" topics.*
- *It made me think some.*
- *I enjoyed the experience, It was different from normal classes; you got to participate.*

REACH: Reach continued in 2012. The program continues to provide an increased level of school connectedness for the participants. In Term 4 2012 we took the Reach boys to Mt Tibrogargan. This was a great day out as the perceived risk is rather high which created the opportunity for the boys to pull together and work with one another.

This year, Steve Gilmore (Guidance Officer) and I ran two Year 9 groups. Both the groups graduated from the Rock and Water Program, which is a physical martial arts program, equipping the participants to become aware of their inter- and intra-personal thoughts, feelings and actions. The completion of the Rock and Water program provided the opportunity for the boys to break a 20mm board with one hit.

One of the outcomes of the Reach program is the depth of relationship that we gain with these few students. I regularly come in contact in the community with past Reach participants and hear of their journey since leaving school as well as continuing to encourage the Year 11 and 12 students who participate.

Princess party: 21 female students and 3 staff attended The Princess Party. This event is organised by the MIRA project and the participants attend a Ball style meal and listen to guest speakers and mentors encouraging them to be self-confident and positive young women. With assistance from the Year Level Coordinators we target the students who sit in the middle of the year level, those who get by but never really receive any extra positive or negative attention.

Relation Aggression Program: I ran a short program with a small group of Year 9 girls who were referred to me by Administration. The program introduced the idea of relational aggression and the ways in which girls in particular are aggressive and harmful to one another. By increasing their awareness to these behaviours, the participants were able to work together to combat relation aggression. As an outcome of this program the groups of girls have modified their behaviours and their reputations have changed amongst their peers. Kelly, our Youth Support Worker, co-facilitated this program

Student Leadership: I had the privilege of working alongside the senior student leaders in 2012. The year began with the Leaders' retreat and I continued to deliver workshops and encouragement to the student Leaders throughout the year, including listening to their challenges and struggles. Working with the Year 11 coordinator we delivered some leadership workshops in preparation for their final year.

Other activities: as chaplains we are involved in numerous activities in the school and wider community. We attempt to be at most school community events; including, for example marching with the Anzac parade. Our presence at school dances, sports carnivals, camps, excursions, coaching teams and other school events allows us to connect and have a positive influence in the lives of our students.

Not only do we support students but also the staff, both teaching and non-teaching. Running and assisting with world teacher's day, teacher-aide morning teas, ancillary staff morning teas and taking chocolates/coffees/surprises to the office and administration staff all contribute to the atmosphere of the school.

The allocation of P&C funds resources the chaplaincy to facilitate a wide range of activities; from Year 8 pancake morning teas, QCS BBQ, World Teachers' Day celebrations and general day to day activities. Thank you for the P&C's generosity.

Family assistance fund: The Family Assistance fund was distributed as follows:

- school uniforms
- shoes
- text book hire and laptop program. This assistance has been given as a dollar matching process; the Family assistance fund will match any payment a struggling family will pay (e.g. if they pay \$10 a month the fund will match that)
- Tuckshop vouchers
- Coles Gift cards for families under financial hardship, these help with School lunches, home economics ingredients etc.
- Transportation costs (go card)
- Short course fees to help student gain useful qualifications and give them a better opportunity of a outcome at the end of school
- Assistance with excursion fees and camps.

Thanks: once again the chaplaincy would like to express our gratitude to the P&C. I personally would like to express my thanks also. As I chat to other Chaplains around the state it is clear that a supportive P&C makes a real difference to an effective chaplaincy.

It is a privilege to work alongside others that are concerned about the well-being of our community. Thank you for the financial assistance. This empowers the chaplaincy to support this community and releases the chaplain to do their best without being constrained by a lack of resources. Chaplaincy thanks you for your commitment and dedication to our school.