

**Combined Annual Reports for 2013
The Gap State High School P&C Association**

President – Steve Bennett

I have now been serving as President for two years. I am very fortunate to be supported in that role by a very diligent and hard-working executive team, which is also largely unchanged from last year. They are: our vice presidents Ross Utting and Penni Davidson, our secretary Peter Rolls and our treasurer Jenny McLucas. We also have two very active sub-committees, POPARTS chaired by Ivy Hanley and SHAPE chaired by Leon Bailey.

We are also very well served by the dedicated team of employees and volunteers who run the Tuck-shop, 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, POPARTS, SHAPE and the school communications officer role. So thank-you for supporting these businesses and please continue to do so.

I want to particularly congratulate our Tuck-shop convenors Tracy and Vanessa for continuing to provide excellent quality healthy delicious food at extremely competitive prices; our uniform shop convenors Britta and Renuka for their deft handling of the complexities associated with a uniform upgrade, and our stalwart Kathy for continuing to hold the fort in the stationery shop.

Although we have kept our prices low, the extra custom that has been generated by the conversion of the tuckshop to a self-service canteen has resulted in an increase in profit for the tuckshop this year in the order of approximately 30%. However, we are well overdue for a price review, so we have approved a small increase to most tuckshop items from the commencement of 2014.

Another important thank you must go to the Brisbane City Council, and in particular Councillor Geraldine Knapp for her ongoing support. Geraldine is a regular attendee at our general meetings, demonstrating her commitment to the school. This year we have been particularly grateful for the Council's financial support of \$10,000 which enabled us to build the new steps down to the oval. Geraldine has also recently arranged the installation of much needed barrier fences on the Waterworks Road footpaths.

I would also like to publicly acknowledge The Gap NewsXpress for sharing with us the fruits of their award as the most popular newsagent in Australia. They gave us \$1000 and I understand that they gave each of the 4 primary schools in The Gap a similar amount.

This year we have dealt with a number of major issues including;

- reviewing and ratifying the School's Responsible Behaviour Plan for the next 3 years;
- reviewing and recommending changes to the school uniform which will come into effect from the beginning of next year;
- endorsing the School's Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2017, and
- supporting the School's decision to apply to become an Independent Public School from the commencement of 2014.

Approximately 3 years ago we developed a 5 year plan which prioritised a range of potential P&C projects. In the latter part of 2014 Ross Utting carried out a review of that plan. He concluded that a very large percentage of the items on that plan have already been achieved.

Most significant of those is, of course, the Sports Hall which opened on 21 February 2014. One direct consequence of that achievement is that the sportspeople will have their own purpose-built venue, leaving the JA Robertson Hall exclusively available for more cultural pursuits. On that basis, we decided to make our major project for the immediate future a complete refit of the JA Robertson Hall as a Performing Arts Complex. We hope to generate the considerable funds for this project through a combination of grant money and fundraising activities in addition to POPARTS' existing signature events, the Trivia Night and Cabaret.

The SHAPE committee under Leon's leadership also have some exciting new fundraising ideas, including a very well-coordinated Fun Run to coincide with the school's cross-country event. This was successfully initiated in 2013 and has been built on in 2014.

I have one other important thank-you to make. To Mr Pollock and all the school staff, on behalf of all the parents, please accept my congratulations on another successful year, and our appreciation for a job well done.

I will be standing down from the role of President at the 2014 AGM. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve such a great school community as part of such a dedicated and professional executive team. I am very confident that the School has a bright future in which I hope to participate in a different capacity.

Treasurer – Jenny McLucas

The 2013 year was a busy one again. Both the Tuckshop and Uniform Shop exceeded their budget and Stationery Shop remained steady. Comparing budget to actual for 2013, our proposed surplus funds were \$30,545 and our actual surplus funds were \$87,661. This is due to the fact that we did not outlay the proposed \$50,000 on P&C Projects as budgeted.

TUCKSHOP

The Tuckshop has again done very well this year, with both the move to self-service in 2012 and the introduction of EFTPOS at the beginning of 2013 proving extremely successful. The Tuckshop turnover (takings) for the year was over \$222,000 giving them an overall profit of over \$27,500. \$9,000 of these takings related to the numerous catering jobs for various school functions, with these side jobs also proving very profitable.

I congratulate all the tuckshop staff and volunteers on their efforts throughout the year, often going above and beyond their duties and hours (with 5.30 starts becoming not uncommon!).

UNIFORM SHOP

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

Due to the Uniform Working Group's tremendous efforts in 2012 and 2013, the changes to the uniforms were initiated for the 2014 year and we have already seen a huge increase in sales so far in 2014.

Again I commend Renuka and Britta and all the volunteers for all their hard work in the uniform shop throughout the year, often going above and beyond their duties and hours as well, especially during the busiest time of the year in January in a very small, hot and stuffy area.

Although they were promised air conditioning last year, it unfortunately was put aside as other projects throughout the school took over, but my first priority for the 2014 year is to have air conditioning and Judy Ives is currently getting quotes for the necessary upgrade of the electricity to achieve this. I have budgeted \$10,000 (\$5,000 for the unit and \$5,000 for the upgrade) for this purpose.

STATIONERY SHOP

The stationery shop again ran quite smoothly and was slightly below budget, due to about 15 Year 7 and 8 stationery kits being left over, but these items should sell throughout the year.

CASH ON HAND:

At the end of 2013, the P&C had just under \$70,000 on hand and the \$100,000 QTC loan is now down to around \$53,512 as we continue to make quarterly instalments.

Our major project for the year, now that the Sports Hall is up and running is to upgrade the current hall to become the JA Robertson Performing Arts Centre elevating it to a modern, professional performance level facility. Obviously, this will require quite substantial funding. Initial investigations into Government Grants (such as the Gambling Community Benefit Fund) were halted when we were advised that we could not go for any Government Grants whilst we had a loan outstanding with the Treasury. We contacted the QTC with a view to pay out this loan ASAP but were advised that the payout figure is based on the Current Market Value not the Net Book Value. So although the net book value was about \$57,600, the current market value was about \$60,300 not making it worthwhile to payout as we would be going backwards!

Accordingly, it was resolved to leave the loan to payout itself over time and source alternative (private) grant funding prior to 2017. In conjunction with the Poparts Committee, we will start investigating this soon. The loan will be down to \$38,000 by the end of 2014, and I will obtain a payout figure then to see if the position has changed.

I am not in a position to advise any specific amounts that will be required so I have proposed an amount of \$70,000 be budgeted under the heading P&C Projects which is made up of \$55,000 for assisting the school with their priorities this year, namely air conditioning or landscaping and groundwork, \$10,000 uniform shop air conditioning mentioned above and \$5,000 for an access door required for the Tuckshop. When we have further information throughout the year, we will bring it to the P&C for further discussion.

Even with budgeting this \$70,000, there should still be about \$20,000 cash on hand at the end of the year.

Uniform Shop – Renuka Nathan and Britta Kammann

2013 was another busy year at the Uniform Shop. At the beginning of the year we had opened the Uniform Shop for ten days 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, the uniform committee considered various uniform changes. During this period we received blouse samples from the supplier, and made various changes until we were glad that the style of the girls blouse was a better fit and look. We also discussed and agreed upon a thicker material for the blouses and shirts, chose a new polo fabric for the sports shorts, and changed the school logo on the pockets. The senior long sleeve and short sleeve shirts had the new logo on the pockets for the first time. We had also changed the Year 12 ties. These changes were for the 2014 uniform requirement.

Before the end of the school term, we had placed orders for uniforms for 2014. We had also processed and priced second-hand uniforms, and did our annual stock take.

We thank the P&C especially Jenny McLucas, Peter Rolls, Russell Pollock and the Uniform Committee for their continuing support throughout 2013. We also take this opportunity to thank our wonderful and dedicated volunteers.

Stationery Shop – Kathy Robertson

Working from the Tuckshop is going well and I think there has been an increase in usage by the students. A few teachers requested particular items and told students they can get them from the shop, so that helped.

We sold about 160 Year 8 Kits (30 more than last year) and 60 Year 7 Kits (20 more than last year). However I do have about 15 left over, so stock will be up a bit this year. We will be able to use it in next years' kits. Having the EFTPOS machine made a huge difference for the holiday opening times which went very smoothly.

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.

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.

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 or email, on 3511 3812 or at ghawk13@eq.edu.au.

Overview 2013

Chaplaincy in 2013 continued to travel along with the schools journey. It was a steady year with the normal patterns of school life. There were no major strategic changes and I believe we continued to add value to our great school. A personal highlight for me as a chappy was to be given the opportunity to attend the positive education training at Geelong grammar and be part of a team that is implementing this into our school culture. As always camps provided opportunity to connect with students and I was able to co facilitate our first year 7 camp at camp Cooroora. I was also honored to be asked to attend the China/Taiwan trip at the end of the year. Being on hand to witness our sister school relationship with Chongming school.

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 2013 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, I pull alongside, listen, care and support people. Challenges that I have assisted students and staff with in 2013 include:

- Family breakdowns
- Grief and Loss - including terminal illnesses
- Relational issues
- Substance misuse
- Mental health
- School refusal

My approach to pastoral care at The Gap is not limited to responding to issues 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.

In 2013 the chappies award was presented to a year 12 student who had managed to complete high school after overcoming the loss of his mother earlier in his adolescence. It was also great to witness the graduation of a couple of other students that I had been supporting through their senior years and also to hear that they are doing well. We have the blessing of some amazing young people who achieve some breakthroughs in difficult circumstances.

During the student free days at the beginning of 2014, I asked the staff at a development day to put down what we do well; the majority of the responses related to the relationships of staff, students and our community. This is gold; our caring and genuine concern for our students' and school communities' wellbeing is a major factor in our success developing great human beings. I am excited to see the development of positive education in 2014 within the school community/culture and being part of the opportunity to embrace the positive impact that it will bring our school community

Spirituality

Embedded in the Goals program and in tune with the motto of *Educating the whole person*, Chaplaincy continued to deliver the spirituality program to Yr 10 and 11. Year 10 focuses on values and beliefs, with Yr 11 engaging 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.

In 2013 we narrowed the focus to Year 11 as there has been a slow decline in volunteers for this program. I still worked with the Year 10 as class group; however the small group format was limited to year 11. Jonathan Sargent, who served as this school's first chappy in the early 90s and continued to help out and facilitate the spirituality program, finished up at the end of 2013. He spent an entire generation investing in our students and committed to their spiritual well being. 2014 will see an evolving of the spirituality element of goals as we look to keep things fresh and relevant.

REACH

Steve Gilmore (Guidance Officer) and I ran REACH through 2013. Year 9 boys had the opportunity to complete the rock and water program and develop as young men.

Girls groups

I ran a short program with a small group of Year 9 girls who were referred to me by Administration. The program involved discussion on positive behaviours and relationship with peers. The group provided some of the participants with support from their peers and also an outlet to share their challenges. Kelly, our Youth Support Worker, co-facilitated this program

Student Leadership

I had the privilege of working alongside the senior students leaders in 2013. 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.

Funding

As at the beginning of 2013 the chaplaincy has the capability of continuing to offer a full time service. ReNew 2013 our major fundraising dinner achieved enough funds to pay salaries. I am hoping that ReNew 2014 will bring in suitable funding to continue. ReNew 2014 will be held on 22 May.

Other activities

As a chaplain I am involved in numerous activities in the school and wider community. I attempt to be at most school community events; 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 admin 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.
- Assistance with excursion fees and camps.

Thanks

Once again I would like to express our gratitude to the P&C. 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.

Communications – Jane Deighton

Website

My role includes uploading news stories publicising student achievements and events; taking photos of events and the school buildings and grounds and uploading them to the website; uploading P & C minutes and reports, the Newsletter, Uniform Shop Order Forms, the Tuckshop Menu, Stationery Price List, Sports results and adding events to the Events Calendar.

Newspaper articles / Press releases

I regularly send news stories to various newspapers (Westside News, Western Echo, BMag) publicising student achievements and events; and take photos to accompany stories.

Recent stories have included the Year 7s first day, the Sports Hall opening, the STEM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), the World Challenge trip to Africa and the Year 11 Taiwan visit.