

## School Council President's Report - 2017

2017 has been a year of review, renew and sustain

This year we have continued to review and improve our financial management. Having collated data from multiple years, we are now able to compare and contrast the revenue and expenses from previous years to refine the current budget and inform the future budgets. We have better month by month forecasting of expenses and have managed to accumulate a surplus that allows us to weather the unexpected and continue to deliver on our sustainable future objective.

As per the commitment from 2016, each service (OSHC, Canteen and Uniform Shop) has continued to review their fees and charges in light of CPI and increased costs. To minimise the impact of these increases, extended notice periods were provided throughout the year. In order to optimise our collection rates and reduce administrative overhead, the finance committee reviewed the school fee collection process and in bringing forward the initial request for fees earlier in the year, we have succeeded in achieving a higher percentage intake and minimised the overhead of handling rejected payments.

A challenge that we continue to work on is engaging our school volunteer community. With the changes in the community demographics and family lifestyles, it was prudent that we reviewed and considered the appropriateness of our Welfare Clubs Membership. Attendance in the welfare clubs waned through 2016. Parent community engagement forums were run to better understand the needs of our families and their expectations of our welfare clubs. Through this engagement, it was agreed to disband the Parent's Club and instead form a Parents and Friends group steered by a smaller steering group. The focus of this group is primarily organising fundraising events and/or community events allowing for smaller autonomous groups to run the events. Renewing our welfare clubs has seen an increased engagement and energised parent community.

The canteen committee has continued to refine and condense the canteen menu focusing on healthy choices and making pricing more viable. Attracting volunteers to assist in the running of the canteen on canteen days continues to be a challenge and challenge to focus on for 2018.

2018 is a fete year with planning commencing in 2017. I'd like to thank Melissa Joy and her team for volunteering to take on the challenge of running our 2018 fete. It was great to see so many new parents involved. Plans are well underway and I'm sure the 2018 fete will be a fantastic community event and a great success. The funds will be directed to digital technologies and science programs.

Building and grounds development continued into 2017 after the initial asbestos work completed. Beyond the renewal of the tanbark areas and playground areas, we have seen the year 4 precinct come to life and an impressive outdoor learning space created. The new addition of the science room has provided a valuable resource for our STEM program and our wider science curriculum. The school buildings have received a much-needed facelift with the replacement of the external cladding and general paint. I'm sure most would agree, the school is looking fantastic.

A special thank-you to Glen King, who took on the amphitheatre project and has delivered us a wonderful multipurpose space on the oval edge. The amphitheatre, made possible by the 2016 fete funds, has provided a fabulous performance space as was seen at the 2017 Carols night as well as wonderful outdoor learning space.

I'd like to thank Sherril and her team for their dedication, passion and resilience. The feedback during the review process conducted this year by external peers, was a testament to their continued personal investment into improving the quality of programs being run. The external reviewers were very impressed at how BNPS continues to learn from the latest research, have adopted the visible learning techniques and increased the ongoing feedback through compass.

Every year seems to be busier than the last and 2017 did not disappoint. It's been a privilege to be involved in such a dynamic school. I'd like to thank my fellow school councillors for their energy, commitment and passion. It's great to have a School Council and School leadership team that have shared clarity and work so well as a team.

2018 is set to be another busy year with both fete and the concert being a large focus. Our building renewal program is set to continue with plans already underfoot for the multi purpose room block replacement.

I wish all at BNPS, the staff, students, families and wider school community a successful 2018.

*Carolynn Smith*

**School Council President**