

President Report AGM – Friends of EAC 2017

A major highlight for 2016 has been seeing the funds raised and donated by Friends (past and present), being utilised for the new buildings. At the beginning of the year, our Treasurer declared “Let’s spend some money!”

So, **\$20,000** in pre-allocated funds from the previous committee was donated toward the fantastic Art and Craft space in the new Discovery Building. To have a creative area like this adjacent to classrooms is a wonderful asset for teachers and students.

A further **\$10,000** paid for the soft fill under the Junior Playground, so our Stage 1 students no longer have to land (or fall!) on horrible bark-chips. Another **\$10,000** was put toward funky modern furniture in the new Discovery Centre and **\$5,000** has been committed furnishing the Year 12 Common Room over the holidays, which will provide a unique space for their important final year. We also purchased a baby grand piano for the music room, which I believe is in constant use. These contributions have all helped to enhance the learning experience of students at EAC.

Friends activities during the year have included: our inaugural Soccer Movie/Shoe Swap with coaching tips and movies on a giant inflatable screen; the popular beached- themed Primary School disco; our hilarious fun-filled 80’s Trivia Night; and the stylish Cook Book fundraiser. There has also been our College Art Show, Athletics and Cross Country events and Mother’s Day and Grandparent’s Day celebrations. Once more we ended the year with our awesome Freaky Friday Carnival. Of course, the Second hand Uniform Shop also provides a wonderful service to all families, with funds going toward the Year 12 formal.

Again our primary mission has been to make new parents and carers feel welcome and part of a community, whilst building on the strong friendships and volunteering spirit of existing parents and carers. Any funds we happen to raise along the way are accompanied by much laughter, friendship and shared purpose.

This year’s team consisted of an enormous group of willing volunteers, as well as our enthusiastic Friends Committee. Taking on the Presidency two years ago was a slightly daunting task. But the support from the team has been more than one could ask for. So thank you to the Executive Committee Janelle Wilson (Vice President), Fiona Wilson-Jones (Secretary) and Kirsten Jackson (Treasurer). Together I think we have been a formidable working team. And to our Committee Members- Lee Adendorff, Marion Tait, Robyn Fell, Steve Carrigg, Mark Awad, Alisha Green, Meagan Laverty, Janet Hale, Jenny Campbell and Libby Vasquez for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Our Class Parent Coordinator system has continued to be an effective method of communication to parents, as well as our Parent Helpers List.

Thank you to Mr Tobias, the EAC administrative and teaching teams, the canteen and maintenance staff for their continuing support of Friends and all of our crazy ideas.

Thank you to **everyone** who has contributed or been involved with Friends in 2016, your efforts are sincerely appreciated. We respect that you are busy with work and family commitments and many of you already give your time to other committees outside the college. So whether you have attended meetings, served morning tea, helped on a Freaky Friday booth, provided sponsorship, baked a cake or simply just 'attended' our events or purchased a cookbook in support of our initiatives and our efforts – it all makes a huge difference to our hard-working committee.

Friends meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm in the Joan Pickup Library at the College. Our meetings are not just about fund-raising and social events– they also provide a forum where parents can share their ideas and give input as to how we can constantly enhance our beautiful College. The broad mix of attendees (representing a variety of year levels) also provides a unique opportunity to communicate, build relationships and 'connect' with the College as a whole. It is a friendly and welcoming atmosphere where parent contributions are greatly valued.

On behalf of Friends, I would like to extend a warm invitation to all parents and carers to attend any of the 2017 meetings. So if you have any ideas for fund-raising, fund-**spending**, college enhancements or social activities, we would love to hear them.

We are now at our AGM and are about to open nominations for a new committee. Parents - please be reassured, there are no rules or overwhelming time commitments. Of anything we feel most proud of is that we have strived for and achieved balance. As a committee we have all worked within our limits, simplifying our initiatives and spreading our activities comfortably throughout the year. Our aim has to always been to try to avoid 'Volunteer Fatigue' and I believe this has been achieved.

Many parents ask me why we do this Friends thing. Simple – we do it for our children and their future at the College.

So, whether your contribution to Friends is large or small, your input will be greatly valued and the output incredibly rewarding.

Thank you

Jane Bond

President of Friends of EAC