

Shenton College P&C

2017 President's Report

I will, if I may, start with an apology. I am unable to attend tonight's meeting as I have a pressing family engagement that I really must attend. I am disappointed in the situation, as I would wholeheartedly enjoy welcoming new visitors to the P&C and to seeing the 'olds & bolds' at yet another AGM.

We have had a successful and active year in 2017 in the P&C. The normal business of supporting the school has continued, with several hundred thousand dollars collected from the school community through the P&C voluntary contributions, these being returned to the school community by way of funding items that the school needs to create its special community but which are not easily, if at all, obtainable through the government system. It is pleasing to note that about 80% of Shenton families paid the voluntary contribution – presumably indicating that our system of valid requests, checks and a reasonable approach to funding have meant that families see value in what the P&C and school can create with their hard earned funds.

On other fronts we have also been very busy! The Fathering Project began to make its presence felt, slowly but surely: the bike repair station was installed; the water saving device installation throughout the school was completed (installed by parents and students); the sustainable shop (the online reselling system) was a great success; progress was made on the re-fitting the whole school to LED light fittings (although this is ongoing), and more!

Items that the P&C has funded this year have included financial support for the uniform shop staffing, the direct funding of part of a school psychologist, funding for school library after hours staff support, assistance to state and national Shenton College representatives – the list goes on and on!

I think that those involved can feel justifiably proud of what a relatively small group of active parents have achieved this past year.

Attending the P&C meetings twice a term has one major benefit. At each meeting the Principal offers a report on the progress of the school, issues that the school faces, a rundown of the extracurricular activities, tours, awards, philosophy of the leadership, upcoming build projects and numerous other items. Each of these reports has given the meeting attendees rarely seen glimpses of how the school community is built. On your behalf, I would like to thank Chris, Sue and Mike for giving us these insights over the years – all done after hours and on a completely voluntary basis. Thank you guys for your dedication and commitment to keeping the involved parents of the school in the loop of the school's inner workings.

You may be aware that 2018 sees the retirement of some of the long service P&C committee members. Myself as President, Kim as Secretary, and Joy as Treasurer have all finished our time at Shenton as our children (sadly) have now graduated from the school.

I am confident that new people will be found to keep the P&C being a useful part of the Shenton Community. I am very heartened to have received a nomination for President from a person who completely 'gets' the idea of community – in Adrian Barich. You may know Adrian as a hi profile TV

personality and sportsman of some note, but I have been lucky enough to know Adrian as an active member of my local primary school P&C and I have worked with him on some very worthwhile projects in the past. You rarely see a more dedicated, well connected, forward thinking and tireless compatriot than Adrian. I am sure that if he is elected tonight the efforts (and fun) that this P&C committee has contributed and enjoyed will be continued. I am equally confident that you as an organisation will be able to find members to build a team equal to the best, to move the P&C forward.

As you move forward, I am also confident that you will continue to be an integral part of the school community. I am sure you will be able to be clear in the purpose and aims of the P&C, and to work cooperatively with the staff and the school board to assist them in their (different) roles. Most of all, I am sure you will see the benefit to your children of participating actively in the school through the P&C, and hopefully you will extract much pleasure and sense of achievement in doing so.

Regards,

Brian Swain