



Pittwater House Parents Association

President's Report - 2010

2009 saw new committee members joining the PHPA with fresh ideas and energy to enhance the school family and, of course, to raise those much needed funds to improve facilities at Pittwater House for our children. The new library and media centre that was created during the year with funds donated by the PHPA was officially opened during book week to an extraordinary array of themes, colour and creativity. Following the success of the outdoor cinema night in the summer of 2008, the PHPA presented *Music at 'da' House*, which saw the school family enjoy live music from students, alumni and parents and dancing troupes in the great outdoors together.

Before cataloguing the year's events, however, it is appropriate to pay tribute to our Treasurer, Vicki McGrowther, who retired at the end of 2009. Vicki tirelessly and with absolute dedication, took responsibility for so many of the functions and events arranged by the PHPA and achieved a great deal for the school over many years. With her children now having concluded their studies at Pittwater House, Vicki's enthusiasm and community spirit will be greatly missed.

The year commenced with the traditional Cocktail Party on Friday 13th of February, attended by parents and teachers alike, who used the dark and gooly, yet relaxed atmosphere to get to know one another a little better. The Great Hall was suitably decorated to capture the spirit of the occasion, thanks to the creative talents of Sylvie Korchinski and Janie Tregunna. There was the usual array of dads working the bar, serving bubbly and a cold beer, while students served the sumptuous finger food. As is usual, the event was very well attended, with most parents moving onto dinner with friends and new class parents.

The PHPA provided refreshments at the various swimming carnivals, the Anzac Day service and the ceremonial parade during the year. The PHPA continued to operate the Canteen successfully, thanks to Martine Conde and Beth Eager, who have provided another year of exceptional service. Special mention should be made of all of the hard work performed by Vanessa Smith, our Secretary, who shouldered the burden of arranging the canteen roster during most of the year and, of course, our dedicated bunch of volunteer parents who generously donate their time to serving in the canteen. During the year, a canteen sub-committee was formed to deal with its particular needs and generate ongoing improvements. The '*Cool Kiosk*' in the junior school playground during terms 1 and 4 continued to be a real hit with the kids.

It is important to mention that all of the profits from the canteen and its associated services, together with the results of the PHPA's fundraising efforts are returned to the school for the benefit of our children. The donation for the new *Library Media Centre* has been mentioned and requests for equipment and the like from various school faculties are regularly received. The PHPA has a financial capacity to contribute funds to exciting projects in 2010. While developing the concept of the '*school family*' is an important function of the PHPA, its fundraising activities remain a vital source of the school's capital projects to improve the scholastic environment of our children.

Similarly, the clothing pool has also performed well and we thank Verity Powers and Andrea Brooke for attending diligently to this. The '*English book scheme*' also continued throughout the year.

This year's mother's day lunch which combined some of the really good elements of the 2008 '*High Tea*' and the more traditional luncheon approach was a perfect recipe for this important occasion and was a spectacular success. Our school mothers had the opportunity to shop at various stalls set up around the Great Hall, as well as taking in live performances from the children across the school. An excerpt from the major school production '*The Importance of being Earnest*' was a particular treat. The day was extremely convivial and enjoyed by all who attended.

The traditional father's day breakfast continued to be well supported in the backdrop of the children's artwork on display, with the egg and bacon rolls going just as fast as the cappuccinos.



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President's Report - 2010 - Cont'd

Term 4 saw the outdoor music extravaganza *Music at 'da' House* unfold on the school oval under the wonderful gaze of the balmy afternoon sun. Lachlan Galbraith, Baden Donegal (G12) and Jackson Howell (G10) kicked the afternoon off with some laid back R & B, whilst parents rolled out their rugs, poured refreshments and the kids went for the various jumping castles and horizontal bungee. Others tried to outdo each other on the mechanical surfboard. After impressive dance routines from the Brooke Henderson Dance Studio in hip hop and other genres, ColorZ, featuring our very own school mum Karley Brown moved us all with her sultry tones. Gluteus Maximus then finished the night with a mighty rock performance. This was yet another opportunity for the school family to get together and enjoy the laid back style of the evening, which were both a social and a financial success. The committee members and their spouses put in their usual energy to work the BBQ's and have the event run smoothly.

The initiative started in 2008 for the sale of Christmas cards and calendars showcasing the children's artwork from the junior school was again rolled out in 2009, with repeated success. Carla Dunlop (with Hannah Bennet) deserves special thanks for running this.

The school year concluded with Christmas carol drinks being hosted by the PHPA and the second hand book sale taking place on the last day of term.

The results achieved by the PHPA are due to the effort and generous spirit of its committee members and support from the school family. Sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the year's events, particularly Julie Galbraith, Vice-President and those who have served on the committee. As always, new committee members are most welcome to join in and participate in the work of the PHPA and should feel to contact me at any time. I look forward to 2010 with the same enthusiasm that saw 2009 providing such good memories for us all.

Todd Alexis

President - PHPA