

Cherrybrook Technology High School had another stellar year of academic, cultural and sporting excellence in 2017. For this, the P&C extends its thanks and congratulations to the principal, Gary Johnson, and his executive, academic and support teams. The school continues to showcase how public education can successfully develop and prepare young people for adulthood. Our thanks also go to very supportive parents and the broader community.

The P&C continues to work very closely and productively with the school to deliver services to the students. This is voluntary time, and I thank my colleagues on the P&C executive, other members of the P&C who have contributed, and very importantly our team (staff and volunteers) at the Canteen who work tirelessly to provide healthy food for students and staff.

A specific mention regarding the canteen which has seamlessly transitioned from the management of Donna Ryan to a shared management by Vicki Roberts and Mimmi van Stryp. Together with some of the P&C executive members, Vicki and Mimmi and the canteen team have further enhanced the health and safety aspects of the canteen operations.

The long awaited building program at the school is now well underway and we look forward to its conclusion and the opening up of more contemporary facilities for the students. In line with our approach in previous years, the P&C have committed a significant portion of the buildings fund it has accumulated over the past few years, to providing cover for the basketball area once the building program is completed.

Specific mention of the Alumni Association is warranted, given the ongoing growth in membership and activities. The Association is visible in many of the School's activities and is playing an increasing role in mentoring and networking with the current students. Again, I take the opportunity to ask past students of CTHS who are not currently involved to consider playing a part in this important initiative.

Whilst we have had some success with alternative fund raising initiatives, we have not been as successful with others. Unfortunately, the Cherrybrook Markets initiative has not got the traction we were hoping for, and we still have work to do on refining our approach for accessing advertising revenues. The P&C agreed to relook at our approach to alternative funding sources after the conclusion of the building program.

The main sources of funding for the P&C are through parent contributions and the canteen services that are provided for students. We have again, pleasingly, seen continued strong support in parent contributions which remain the single biggest source of funds.

As in previous years the P&C continues to support a number of activities:

- Canteen services which focus on healthy food made available during school hours as well as for various school functions;
- Funds to support various interventions for groups of students in cultural and academic spheres, this includes support for students having difficulties in various learning areas, and cultural activities that support school values;
- Prizes and support for school awards and presentation functions;
- Excellent catering at school events;
- Significant funding for key learning areas to supplement academic activities;
- Support for technology related schooling including support staff;
- Provision of capital and minor equipment, significantly more spend is now being devoted in this area;

- Facilities improvement in the school;
- Attendance at events and functions such as prize giving, orientation for new students, and cultural events;
- Support for key student welfare and development programs such as 'Rock and Water', Duke of Edinburgh awards and musicals/plays;
- Assistance to students who are exceptional achievers by defraying travel costs for national and international events;
- Providing more information to parents about school syllabus content and connections to academic staff.

The key challenge we continue to face is the need for more volunteers for our Canteen, I encourage any parents (particularly those new to the school) who can make time available or know of others who could assist, to please get in contact with us.

We wish Jenny Bevan a long and happy retirement. Jenny, a Deputy Principal at the school for many years, has worked very closely with the P&C to help prioritise where we provide support and leaves big shoes to fill.

The P&C remains in robust financial health even though we have extended the financial and other support we provide to students and staff. Notwithstanding this, there is always more we can do and we are always welcoming of parents and other members of the community who are keen to join in. Please join us for our AGM in March (date will be published in the CTHS newsletter) where you can look at the financial accounts, get more information regarding our activities and hopefully join us for this year's program.

Your P&C is in good shape. I am grateful for the advice and time given by Gary and his team.