

COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE PTA AGM 2014

PRESENTED BY CHAIR

Peak school PTA has had another successful year. We are lucky to have an enthusiastic committee who oversee our main function of improving education outcomes for Peak School children by raising funds and promoting relationships between parents and teachers.

Our daily activities are comprised of three main streams: organizing events, operating a uniform shop, and running the bus service.

Events raised \$157,720 for the PTA in 2013/14. Our ever-popular Lantern Festival began the school year, followed by Bingo, Peak Cinema making its debut as a fund-raising event, Danceathon, and the always-amazing Peak School has Talent.

This income was supplemented by membership fees, the uniform store - the efficiency of which was evidenced by half-yearly stocktakes showing very little variance between physical stock levels in the store and those accounted for on our books - and donations.

The Peak School bus is a valuable service for many families, and, together with events, uniform sales, donations and membership fees, has for many years been one of the sources of revenue from which funds are donated to the school. It also takes up the bulk of the PTA's time. However, in light of significantly increasing costs in recent years, in 2013/14 the PTA began running the bus service on a breakeven basis to keep bus user fees as low as possible. To calculate fees, we simply add the bus cost, the cost of our PTA administrator, and divide by the expected number of users. A Bus Fund surplus from 2012/13 of \$582,602 was retained to pay for any shortfall in bus income in any given year; we aim to keep this fund above \$500,000 as a buffer.

In 2013/14 the bus service ran at a loss of \$51,863, which will be covered by the Bus Fund. On current numbers of bus users at the time of this Report, the bus service will deliver a surplus of approximately the same magnitude in 2014/15. This arrangement will remain in place until bus expenses stabilise, but future committees may aim to return a small surplus to the school via the bus service - as we do with all other activities we undertake on behalf of parents and teachers.

In 2013/14 the PTA donated \$168,646 to Peak School. The bulk of this was spent on priority items identified by the school: Athletics, home readers and English resources, and library books. We also maintain and supply indoor and outdoor plants at the school, and provide some funding to other activities. Last year these included providing refreshments after the St John's Cathedral Nativity service, providing welcome refreshments to the Macbeth production, and hosting functions for new parents and each class.

In addition, the Centenary Fund – the surplus funds from the school's centenary celebrations in 2011 – funded popular children's author and illustrator Liz Million as artist in residence.

We set two informal financial targets for the PTA for 2013/14: to meet our school funding requirements solely through events, and to leave the PTA in a financially stronger position than at the start of the year. We just missed the first target (\$157,720 raised and \$168,646 donated), and met the second target (the General Fund increased from \$1.643m at 31 July 2013 to \$1.751m at 31 July 2014, and the Administrative Fund, which excludes the bus and centenary funds, increased from \$0.912m to \$1.079m over the same period).

Looking ahead to 2014/15, on top of our regular commitments the PTA is likely to donate funds toward new upper playground equipment. We may draw down on some of our surplus to fund this equipment, depending on how much we are asked to fund and how much we raise through planned additional fundraising in 2014/15.

The common denominator in the smooth running of all the PTA's activities is our Administrator Jackie To. The bus service in particular takes a huge amount of time and effort, and the efficiency with Jackie runs it – as well as finding time to operate the uniform store and support our events – deserves our thanks.

I would like to thank all of the parents and teachers of Peak School for their support and contribution towards the unique Peak School community. We are extremely fortunate to have a generous and engaged parent body, exceptionally committed teachers who regularly go above and beyond their roles to provide extracurricular support for our children, and a very strong leadership team at the school.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone on the PTA Committee for all their enthusiasm, support, ideas and hard work during the year.

Chris Cosgrove
Chair
14 September 2014