

## Presidents Report 2019

2019 was once again a very busy year for the P&C and for the community at LEPS. I begin by acknowledging the tireless work the teachers do at this school and in particular the Executive of the school, run by Di. A lot of the work is very much behind the scenes, in which as President I get to see a substantial amount, and I guess a lot which I don't get to see as well. I know for many of us as women it is not always easy getting things done in this society, but Di does not seem to be phased, and I hope that many of the young girls at the school see her as a mentor, as I hope my daughter and many of yours see you women too. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Di and I think we should formally thank Di for the wonderful leadership she has shown as her time as Principal so far. I would personally like to thank her for the support she has shown me through my Presidency. I know I am not the most subtle person, (as my friends know) I am certainly not as diplomatic as she is, and I guess I can learn a lot from her in time.

I would also like to thank my executive team, Anthia, Tini, Gab, Andrew and Anna. They are not only my Executive, but they are also my friends too. What a team we have been. Once again, they have been so easy to work with, so much fun and always reliable. Unless they are jet-setting off around the world. No seriously, it is not always easy to find people to work with that you can count on, and these friends have been there all year for me. We have raised a lot of money for the school, carried out some great projects, and brought the LEPS community together when we've had some hard times. So thanks so much.

To the Band Coordinators, thank you too. You have grown the band, encouraged the kids and made the band program what it is today. Thank you to Mel for organising and running the Uniform Shop so incredibly efficiently. We speak weekly and nothing ever seems to be going wrong only right so well done. Anna, thank you for all the wonderful Mothers day and Fathers Day events, Easter bunny hunts, Sports carnival food, and teachers lunches that you run. We are very lucky that you are so efficient with organising and being bossy.

I would also like to acknowledge on record the help of Greg our Groundskeeper who continually assists the P&C with anything that we need for functions and is at our beck and call throughout the year. In saying that, my thanks too to the office staff, Katie, Scarlet and Carolyn for all their assistance with photocopying and paperwork throughout the year.

There are so many people that make up our school and help with events, functions and programs and I'm sure I've missed someone but thanks.

So if I stop and think of all the things we did in 2019 there were a lot. I start with I guess maybe the more serious side of this report and then I will move to the great projects that have brought our community together throughout the year. Great projects which most of the community would know the P&C was involved in. And I

guess this is where the problem lies sometimes. Many people, despite our best efforts to explain, are still unaware of how much of the schools daily happenings are supported financially by the P&C. Whether it be learning and support teachers, library furniture, ipads, hall upgrades, murals, painting, guest speakers, teacher professional development, band equipment, sports equipment, canteen upgrades, financial support to families and much more, this is all through P&C funds. Ultimately from **YOUR P&C** contributions each year and fundraising at events.

Unfortunately, these contributions have been dramatically declining. There are often valid reasons for this, but I'm not convinced that the decline is all valid. Over the years the decline has become greater each year and it is now at a stage where as President and Treasurer, we will have to reassess for next year how much we will be able to commit to projects, to the school and to future teacher salaries.

We will need to find a way to get across to the community that just because we are a public school, it doesn't mean that everything is free. The P&C contributions are essential to keeping so many aspects of the school moving, so many children supported, so many teachers employed and so many community projects off the ground.

We started the year once again with the Welcome Back Night which was as usual a great success, welcoming in all our new families and Kindy kids. We look forward to our Welcome Back night this year on the 3 April. Some of the wonderful projects we supported this year were the sock project. Each family took a box of socks home to sell. This was something a bit different and we raised a bit of money and enjoyed seeing the kids and every parent around the north shore wearing these socks. We also had the Colour Run again which once gain raised a lot of money and was a great success. Many parents came to support the day. The teachers loved it and the kids enjoyed it once again. We will take a break this year from the Colour Run and will be doing something a bit different.

Later in the year we had our annual Movie Night. Again this is a wonderful community event where we see the whole community come together for a relaxing evening of food, fun and celebration of the LEPS community. Once again, with our community changing and parents working more, it is becoming increasingly difficult to get families to commit to helping with functions, this is putting a lot of pressure on the same people. We will need to try and find a solution to this problem.

The P&C funds have committed to refurbishing the School Hall and have made great inroads into its improvements. The lighting should be completed in the next few weeks now that the painting has been completed. We have had an artist commissioned and the artwork is partially been put up, banners moved around and the next improvement may be the extension of the back doors to be replaced with bifold extension doors. This has been a major project for the P&C at a considerable cost.

We have also spent a considerable amount of money throughout the year on furniture for the library as well as the usual costs of salaries for the learning and support teacher which all the children benefit from at the school.

The P&C at LEPS has a very strong history of being a vital part of the community and an integral part of the decisions that happen here. This can only continue if we have members who want to be involved, who have the time, the passion and the interest in being genuinely committed to our community. The past year has been a hard one with the damage to our school, we have taken many knocks and set backs. But our community is strong and we have each other. Lets have a wonderful Welcome Back Night and come together as one community and help each other to rebuild. Please support the P&C in as many ways as you can. We can't do it alone, we need people to help us. Thank you for allowing me to be President this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed it. This is my last year at LEPS after 11 years at the school, so I will be very teary at the end of the year. Thank you.