**P & C Presidents Report – 2013**

The P & C has had another good year in 2013.

Thanks to all of the people who have either directly or indirectly supported our efforts.

I’d like to thank the Canteen Committee and all the volunteers. This is a great service and the kids thoroughly enjoy this experience and seeing their parents in there. Without you all, our canteen wouldn’t operate. The canteen has passed over $5500 this year to the P&C.

Similarly, thanks to all the people who come in each day to assist with class reading, sport and other activities. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to the members of the P&C, your attendance at meetings and your tireless work on improving the resources and equipment available for the kids and teachers is nothing short of amazing. It is a pleasure to be involved with this group of people.

This year the P&C have worked on a number of items which include:

* Completion and opening of the new sensory garden area ($5255 project cost)
* Chess and Draughts Pieces Supplied for outdoor board ($ 651)
* Quarterly donation to the library for new resources (Totalling $2,700)
* Donation for presentation night awards
* Donation to purchase more Laptops, to support the ongoing laptop program ($7000 total)

P&C have also conducted a number of fundraising activities throughout this year, including:

* Living Fundraisers (Raising $1,400)
* Mothers Day Raffle ($630)
* Fete ($13,400)

A significant amount of the P&C’s work this year has been on completing the Sensory Garden and play area.

Before school resumed in February, we had the water tanks installed along with the concrete stream base and river rocks. A significant boost to this project has been the involvement and donation of all rock and road base materials for the garden by Hansen Quarries – Brandy Hill. Their support has seen this project come in significantly under the original budget and allowed the P&C to reallocate those funds to other projects within the school.

Since school commenced different play zones have been installed, including a large chess board and cubby house along with beautiful gardens created. The gardens and the outdoor chess board where part of a wonderful community donation by Maitland Bunnings.

The garden was officially opened by Principal Craig Partridge and Martin Connor Representative from Hunter Water in June. An article was featured in the Port Stephens Examiner to highlight to wonderful donations and work done to bring this project to life. I am truly please to see the garden used daily by the children in all breaks times as well as teachers using the area for lessons.

The other key project for the year was the school fete. This takes a significant amount of coordination and support from our whole school community. From donations, to volunteers to run the stalls there is plenty of action. This year’s fete was no exception. With the introduction of some new stalls and the return of some classic favourites the 2013 fete was enjoyed by all who attended. The fete raised a profit of $13400 for the P&C to spend on new projects and resources for the school.

On top of all of this activity we have been very busy with involvement in the following:

* Continued to run Book Club this year again with great success. Thank you to the Vasic and Morris family for running this great program. Book club earned $538 in reward points from catalogue sales through the year and where able to redeem $1006 of reward points for library and classroom resources, including:
  + Premier's readers challenge book packs for the library
  + chess books for the library to support the school's chess program
  + classroom gifts in book week, and
  + book stall raffle prizes to promote reading
* School banking was another program that has continued again this year with even more children taking part. With the school earning commission payments of approx. $300. Thanks go to Kirsty Johnson for continuing to run this successful program.
* During the year a safety risk was identified within the school. A trip and slip hazard, this has seen preparation work commence on a path to join the top and bottom playgrounds. The P&C have successfully arranged for the donation of the Concrete and Materials for the installation of this path. Thanks to Hanson Quarries – Brandy Hill who will supply these materials. This work will be finished before school commences in 2014.
* Term 2, we welcomed a new teacher Mrs Bowman - this was a highly contested position. We would like to again congratulate Mrs Bowman.
* School uniforms - this has again been an extremely busy year for our uniform coordinator, Carly Clarke who has done an excellent job.
* Running of the Mothers and Father’s Day stall – these stalls are enjoyed by the children each year. Being able to come and shop for someone special to them is lots of fun.
* Woolworths Earn and Learn School Program – we saw a lot of points again this year which has meant we are able to order lots of great additional resources for the children as part of this community initiative. Thanks to everyone for your support in collecting these stickers.
* Followed up on School Zone issues with Robyn Parker and Port Stephens Council. This has seen the introduction of the 'your speed' sign as come down Warren Street. All schools will have flashing lights in their school zone by end 2015.
* Obtaining pricing and creating a project plan for the upgrade and resurfacing of the Tennis Court area into a multipurpose Netball and Basketball court. Approval was given to go ahead with this project in the November P&C meeting. Intention is for work to commence early in the new year on this project.

To any of our members and families who leave the school this year ‘thank you’ for your wonderful contributions to the P&C and school community. I would like to make special mention to Mrs Pat Feenan who is not only a teacher at Seaham School but a life member of the P&C. Pat is leaving this year and will be greatly missed as a key teaching and P&C member. Good luck in your future adventures.

I’d like to thank everyone who donated money, time or resources to make all of our projects and activities not only happen, but succeed.

Finally, I’d like to ask that all our families consider joining the P&C, we need new members to join our existing committee so the wonderful work being done to enhance the school environment and resources can continue into the future. The time commitment is not huge, P&C is a couple of hours per month for the meeting and occasional assistance with projects or fundraising where you are able.

We are looking forward to another exciting year next year and I would like to welcome all parents and community members to our meetings.

Kerri McCaw – P&C President