

St Vincent's Parents & Friends Association
General Meeting, 26 March 2013
President's Report

Good Evening and Welcome to all for our first General Meeting of 2013. We acknowledge and thank our Leadership Team for their support and guidance of our P&F, and for their presence at our meetings. Just to reiterate, all parents, staff, guardians and grandparents are welcome to General Meetings, which are held once a term, and people are encouraged to engage by way of submitting relevant agenda items for discussion in advance.

The main focus of tonight's meeting is Kerry Rowlands' relay of the vision and plans for St Vincent's in 2013, as well as our other main agenda item regarding the meaning of the Gonski Report and Naplan tests for St Vincent's. Most parents would be aware that the Gonski Report was scathing of Australian educational standards, and The Gold Coast Bulletin recently reported St Vincent's as being one of the lower performing non government schools on the Gold Coast, according to Naplan results. As a parent group, we welcome the opinion of both Brisbane Catholic Education, and that of our Principal. Kerry Rowlands will speak on these matters tonight.

As great importance should be placed on these reports by Mrs Rowlands, and they deserve the larger portion of our time tonight, I am going to take the liberty of summarising some of the news and happenings from this term and next:

Hard to believe that we are at the end of Term 1. Our P&F Committee has already met and has a well considered, balanced and sustainable action plan for projects and events for the year, and I would like to warmly thank every member of the 2013 Committee for giving up their personal time to work on projects and events for the betterment of our community.

Our major financial commitment this year is toward our major project, being covering the basketball courts and upgrading facilities on the oval. This was unanimously voted upon at a General Meeting last year, after the proposal was circulated to our community via the newsletter. Both the school and P&F are also seeking grants to assist with this area.

The Easter Picnic was held last Friday night, with a very large and happy crowd. It is such a lovely opportunity for our families to mingle in a very relaxed and casual atmosphere. This year we had the added bonus of school teachers volunteering to have an hour long mini disco for our Year 5's to 7's, as our Committee pinpointed this age group as being otherwise short of activities. We hugely thank Dan Bloxside, Julia Little, Jehan Hassan and Eammon Light for giving up their Friday night for our kids. Likewise we thank Mrs Rowlands, Vicki Johannes and Chris McLeish for supervising the evening. Thanks also to Pete Guest for help with set up, and bouquets to every member of our Committee who helped organise this night. Genevieve Mulqueen and Sally Alderson organised the raffle, which made almost \$800 and helps offset other costs for the night. Our committee members are reporting in with feed back on the evening, the company providing the talent has sent its feedback, and our community will be asked to offer their constructive suggestions via the next newsletter. We caution to add, as with

all events and functions, we actively seek feedback, but cannot always put all suggestions in place, usually due to WHS or lack of volunteers.

Hot on the heels of this happy event, is another happy one, the Trivia Night on May 3. We thank our Committee Members Genevieve Mulqueen and Sally Alderson for convening this. The theme this year is going to be "Greatest Legends of all Time".

There will also be the Mother's Day Stall conducted by the P&F next term.

At the end of last year, it was decided to pass the Second Hand Uniform stall on to the school to organise. We thank Lorelle Rawlings for taking on this task, and the great success of the stall in recent weeks.

For the sustainability of all our events and projects, we keep detailed files to pass on to future committees. This has been somewhat hit and miss with files going missing. Committee Member Amanda Bleakley has taken on the enormous job of scanning every one of our files, so that we have digital copies stored.

Parent and proposed winner of the P&F Little Miss Organised trophy, Edwina Roberts, has volunteered to clean and organise the P&F Shed. Committee Member Letitia Andersen is helping her with this, as well as small group of other volunteers.

Our P&F is always looking at ways of staying relevant with the times and with our community. Hence, we are currently exploring our own website, and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. This area is very much in the research phase, and we thank our Committee Member Alina Pilic for looking into this area for us, and with Alina and Kerry's guidance, we hope our Committee can have a proposal on this area for our community by next term's meeting.

St Vincent's Night planning is going very well with regular meetings by the Fair Committee. Involvement of the community by way of getting convenors on board will ramp up next term.

Safe and peaceful Easter break to all.

Julianne Young