

2018 was another successful year for Cherrybrook Technology High School. Across academic, cultural and sporting spheres, the school continued to underpin the results that can be delivered by public education when there is a dedicated student cohort, ably supported by a committed academic and general staff, with a parent group and community that is keen for high quality education.

This does not happen by chance, and the P&C extends its thanks and congratulations to the principal, Gary Johnson, and his executive, academic and support teams. We are particularly delighted that Gary's position as principal was reaffirmed this year and the school will continue to have the benefit of his leadership for some while yet.

This year marked a significant development in the school's history as a result of the completion and occupancy of significant infrastructure improvements, which has delivered contemporary teaching facilities that also blend in remarkably well with the existing school infrastructure. The P&C played a very significant part in providing advice to the steering group, through the time and expertise of Rod Cuevas for which we are very thankful. We also contributed significant funds for the new basketball cover and landscaping following the building works completion. Parent contributions, canteen contributions, and various other activities with varying levels of success, have been accumulating over a number of years for an event like this. I'm happy to report that our P&C was ready when needed and our contribution to these works was an extraordinary several hundred thousand dollars. Thank you to current and past parents for your contributions, the basketball cover is a fantastic result for the school and our children, and it could not have been done without your support. These funds were paid in cash to the school in October of last year.

The P&C again worked very closely and productively with the school, both in delivering services to the student body, and also playing a part in areas such as selection of candidates for vacant academic positions. It is worth noting that this is voluntary time that is given and I take the opportunity to thank every member of the P&C executive, and other members of the P&C who have contributed much in a very busy year. Its also a pleasure to thank our team of staff and volunteers who give generously of their time at the Canteen and also in providing refreshments for school events.

A specific mention regarding the canteen which continues to evolve its menu and has sadly farewelled some long serving members and welcomed some new ones. We are always happy to welcome those parents who are willing to provide some time in providing a valuable (and healthy !) service to the students.

The Alumni Association continues to grow and increase its visibility at many of the school activities and events. 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.

With the completion of the building program, which has been several years in conception, design, funding commitment and delivery, we are now ready to start thinking about the next big projects. These are likely to be in the areas of air conditioning and reinvigoration of the canteen facilities. I extend a welcome to parents to get involved early in the shaping up of these initiatives.

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 state, national and international events;
- Providing more information to parents about school syllabus content and connections to academic staff.

The P&C remains in strong financial health. Nevertheless, there is always more we can do and we welcome 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.

This is my last year in the President role and I look forward to passing the baton on, knowing that while ever the P&C works closely with the principal and his team, we will be providing important services to the school. On a personal note, I have had the pleasure of seeing two children progress through the school and I could not be prouder to know that they have been at CTHS.

Finally, a big thank you to Gary Johnson who has always made a point of working closely with the P&C and has unfailingly been available for advice and support, and above all else has such passion and optimism for the school's success.