



Parent and Citizen

Term 1, 2016 Vol 68 No 1





IMPROVE YOUR SCHOOL IMAGE WITH A NEW SCHOOL BANNER

"The banners have arrived and they look fantastic.

We are very happy with them."

- Crookwell Public School

"We will display the banner with pride at upcoming events including our Sports Carnivals & parades.

Our P & C are already using the wonderful new logo formats."

- Wallerawang Public School

"They're fantastic!

One staff member wants to carry them around to all the classrooms so the children can see it."

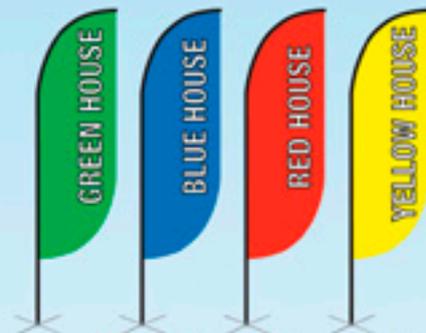
- Culcairn Public School



SCHOOL BANNERS + T-BAR UNIT



LECTERN BANNERS



WINDFREE HOUSE BANNERS



RETRACTABLE BANNERS



MUSIC STAND BANNERS



TABLECLOTHS



OUTDOOR BANNERS



WELCOME MATS



LOGO REPAIR

www.schoolbanners.com.au

Email Us Today for a Quote

info@schoolbanners.com.au

FREE CALL: 1800 817 151





Message from the President	4	Ten Reasons to Send Your Child to Camp	14
Wadalba Community School	5	Schools Spectacular Achieves Further Milestones	16
2016 Election Year	6	Duty of Care – Student Injury Insurance	18
The Baulkham Hills High School Multi Cultural Food Fair 2015	8	P&C Officer Handover Checklist	20
Why “do” P&C?	8	Writing a Submission	22
Parent and Community Engagement Forums	10		



Parent and Citizen Journal

The Journal of the Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales

T: 1300 885 982
 F: 1800 655 866
 E: journal@pandc.org.au
 W: www.pandc.org.au

Contributors and feedback to:
 journal@pandc.org.au

Advertising

The Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales

E: journal@pandc.org.au
 T: 1300 885 982

The views expressed in the journal are not necessarily those of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales.



83 Derby Street,
 Silverwater, NSW 2128
 T: 02 9748 0020
 E: webstar@bluestargroup.com.au



Suite 107, 20 Dale Street,
 Brookvale, NSW 2100
 T: 02 9938 5100
 E: info@kyso.com.au

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2016 school year.

Unfortunately, public education received some terrible news during the holidays. The Federal Government has broken its promise to fund the full Gonski rollout. There is no doubt that this is going to have a significant negative effect on the education of our children for years to come.

As a reminder, David Gonski held a full and independent enquiry into the education system in Australia that identified years of chronic underfunding. All major parties went to the last Federal election promising full implementation of the Gonski recommendations. We hoped that a new Prime Minister and Education Minister might have seen a change of heart, but they have turned their backs on the students of Australia, including some of the most needy.

It is great news however, with the announcement on January 28th 2016, from Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten that labour will commit to fully funding the Gonski reforms.

P&C Federation is committed to fighting for the full implementation of the Gonski changes and we ask you to join us in this fight – which is crucial to the long term

future of our children and our country. We are working with the NSW Government and the Department of Education, Principals, Teachers, and state politicians of all parties across NSW to make sure this is a key issue at the Federal election to be held this year.

Go to igivegonski.com.au for more information, and to see what you can do to help.

As you know, the search is now underway to find a new home for P&C Federation. As a result of the move, we aim to be able to provide a wider range of services to our members. Specialists have been engaged to assist your Council in the search for new premises, and we will keep you informed of progress.

2016 will also see an election for a new P&C Council. If you have a child in public school in NSW, and are a member of a P&C, you are entitled to stand for a position of Councillor or Delegate to represent one of the 16 electorates across the state.

You will recall the current councillors and delegates were voted into their positions following a period of administration. The current term ends in July, and the new election process is starting now.

I am proud of what your current council has achieved. We inherited a challenging situation, and started from scratch to build a strong base for the future. I encourage all P&C members to consider standing for a position. While it can be challenging and time consuming, you do have the opportunity to make a real difference to the students of NSW.

JASON VIALS
President



**GIVE A
GONSKI
FOR OUR KIDS,
MR TURNBULL.**



Wadalba Community School



Our school has made great use of the extra equity funding we have received over the last two years which we believe has added to the learning outcomes for our students.

As a result of the extra funding last year we have been able to:

- create a new class to support vulnerable students in Y8/9. The class is fully staffed, including SLSO support, which allows students to transition for any classes beneficial to individual students. This class has achieved outstanding personalised learning outcomes for students in the class. Teachers have also shared teaching and learning strategies with other staff as part of the school's professional learning program
- create a Mathematics/ Science advanced learner class that is team taught and utilises innovative pedagogies including problem based learning (similar to high performing PISA jurisdictions), project based learning and flip teaching. Parents have been involved with the initiative

to ensure they are informed about the innovative approaches. As a result of the work over two years students have been invited to be involved in an accelerated physics class where they will complete their Preliminary HSC course in Year 10

- create a new Y8 class this year called AVID which stands for Advancement for Individual Determination. This involves significant and ongoing professional development of staff to utilise pedagogies aimed at supporting students to aim for graduation to university, particularly where no other family member who has attended university
- employ a (teacher trained) speech pathologist and SLSO to support individual students. Individual student success has been recorded as well as qualitative feedback from families

and staff about the positive changes. Teaching staff have also benefitted from professional learning in areas such as receptive language acquisition

- staff able to access high quality professional learning in a wide range of areas, including in teams, which have been incorporated into practice and through the school's professional learning program

The success of these initiatives are all scalable with additional money being available from years 5 and 6 of Gonski. We have also been doing some work around student mentoring/ coaching that could be expanded with additional funding. This work focuses on nurturing connections between students and school, promoting student agency and advocacy, as well as development of/ reflection on individual goals set.

2016 ELECTION YEAR

2016 is an election year for the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation). You can view the full election timetable on the website pandc.org.au. One Councillor and

two Delegates will be elected from each electorate. The sixteen Councillors who will comprise the Board and those Councillors will elect an Executive Committee of seven members. The thirty two Delegates who are

elected will attend and participate in the Annual General Meeting for 2016 and 2017.

The election process is an opportunity for P&C Associations to choose their representatives to P&C Federation.

TERM 1										
JANUARY	FEBRUARY				MARCH					APRIL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Enrolment Notice	Close Roll of Affiliated P&C Associations	Calling for Election Notice		Close Voting Delegate Roll Open Nominations				

P&C Associations need to ensure they are financial members of P&C Federation as at **Friday, 19 February 2016**.

Affiliated P&C Association also need

to provide to P&C Federation the name, telephone number and email address of the President (or the Secretary or another member nominated by the Association if the

President will be a candidate in the election) by no later than **Tuesday, 8 March 2016** (the closing date for the voting delegates roll).

TERM 2										
APRIL	MAY				JUNE					JULY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Close Nominations Draw for names on ballot paper		Post Voting Material							

THE ELECTION PROCESS WHERE A VOTE IS REQUIRED

BALLOT PAPERS HOW DISTRIBUTED

Voting material including ballot papers for the P&C Federation election will be mailed to the schools of eligible P&Cs on Monday, 16 May 2016. If your P&C is registered to vote but you do not receive this letter by 27 May 2016, we suggest you first check with your school's administration staff and, if still unable to locate the letter, contact Diana Kosseifi at the NSW Electoral Commission on (02) 9290 5924 or diana.kosseifi@elections.

nsw.gov.au. Note that the voting material will be addressed to your P&C president by name (or the Secretary or another member nominated by the Association if the President will be a candidate in the election), at the school address.

HOW THE BALLOT WORKS – FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

The method of voting for the election of Councillor (one person to be elected) and

Delegates to the P&C Federation AGM (two to be elected) is first-past-the-post, i.e. the candidate(s) with the most votes is elected.

For electing a Councillor, the process is straightforward: on the Councillor ballot paper you **write a '1' against the candidate** your P&C wants to vote for. **As preferential voting is not being used, do not write '2' and '3' against the other candidates for Councillor.**

For electing the two Delegates, on the Delegate ballot **write the numbers '1' and '2'**

your P&C most wants to vote for. However, in some cases, while only two Delegates are being elected, on a first-past-the-post basis, it is possible that one of the candidates you vote for will have been eliminated from the ballot for Delegates because they have already been elected as Councillor. On those ballot papers, the instructions will be to place a number 3 next to a 3rd candidate.

HOW DOES YOUR P&C DETERMINES ITS VOTE – BY HOLDING A VOTE AT ONE OF YOUR P&C MEETINGS

The P&C Federation has specified that your P&C determines how it votes by holding a vote at a meeting of your P&C. Exactly how you conduct a vote is up to you, except that:

- The voting should follow any applicable rules of your P&C’s constitution and by-laws; and
- The **vote is to be conducted by your school’s Principal**, or their delegate; and
- The **only people who can vote are those who are “up-to-date paid Parent Members” of your P&C**.

“Up-to-date paid Parent Members” means people who were **financial members of your**

P&C and who were “a parent, a guardian or other person having the custody or care of a child” who was attending your P&C’s school on that date.

Suggested Motion:

That the [school] P&C Association’s vote in the 2016 P&C Federation election be for:

- (a) the Councillor position: ‘1’ for [name of candidate]
- (b) the Delegate positions: ‘1’ for [name of candidate], ‘2’ for [name of candidate] and ‘3’ for [name of candidate]

PLAN WHICH P&C MEETING WILL CONSIDER YOUR P&C’S VOTING INTENTIONS

Most P&C Associations meetings are held monthly. With the completed ballot papers to be posted back to the NSW Electoral Commission so that they are received by the NSW Electoral Commission by no later than **12.00noon, Tuesday, 26 July 2016**. Taking into account the impact of the July school holidays we suggest scheduling the voting as an agenda item at a specific general meeting.

BRIEF YOUR PRINCIPAL – THEY HAVE TO CERTIFY YOUR P&C’S VOTE

Instruction on the ballot paper requires **your Principal to certify the vote of your P&C** “has been conducted in accordance with the rules and constitution of [your] P&C Association and the P&C Federation Constitution” by printing and signing their name on one of the ballot envelopes provided. We suggest you ensure your Principal is aware of this requirement before the vote.

TERM 3	
JULY	
1	2
	Close Poll
	Count & Declaration



ASK ABOUT OUR HIGH DENSITY SHADECLOTH IN A RANGE OF MODERN COLOURS



Create a premium quality shade feature at a competitive price and increase opportunities for outdoor learning

PROVIDES:

- A pleasant and inviting atmosphere for lessons, functions and community gatherings
- Very high UV protection and water resistant
- The breathable canopy allows LIGHT & AIR IN and NOISE OUT

PERFECT FOR:

- Sports Courts and Assembly areas
- Fixed play equipment
- Open Play spaces

Designed by an independent structural engineer to comply with the Building Code of Australia, you can be sure your SUN SHADE structure or sails will be durable and long lasting – built for your specific site conditions.



PO Box 287 Avalon NSW 2107
Tel: 1300 78 44 81
www.sunshade.com.au

THE BAULKHAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL Multi Cultural Food Fair 2015

A Multi Cultural Food Fair was held at Baulkham Hills High School (BHHS) on Saturday, November 7 2015. This was organised and run by the school P&C to celebrate the diverse multi cultural community at BHHS. There were food stalls hosted by the Australian, Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Korean and Sri Lankan communities providing a wide range of delicious dishes to the over 600 people who attended the event.

The school students were able to showcase their many talents on the night. The School Stage and Senior Band performed to their usually high professional standard. We also had excellent student performances including the Baulko Dance Group, Baulko Singing Group, Bollywood Dance Group, Indian Classical Dance and Melody Singing that entertained the audience.

Many community groups also performed on the night to entertain the crowd including

the Sri Lankan Dance Group, Chinese Singer from the yellow river singing group, Chinese traditional instrumental performance and also a performance by National champion Tai Chi Master Huang.

This first Multi cultural food fair held at BHHS was a resounding success and the school P&C plans to make this an annual event.



WHY “DO” P&C?

I volunteer at my child's school. It is my local school. I find that giving up an hour or two each month to attend meetings where we as a group get to have a direct impact on my child's learning is priceless. I appreciate the fundraising that the P&C Association needs to do to ensure that our children have access to educational materials and great facilities. I don't mind lending a hand.

IT IS THE LEAST THAT I CAN DO EVERY NOW AND THEN.

My children like that I am involved in their school life and they love it when they see me at the stall or helping out at school community events. Yes, even the high school child gets a kick out of me participating – not that he would ever say that out loud or in front of his friends. P&C has allowed me to develop my skills. I have a better understanding of meeting practices and I have made lasting friendships. P&C for me also offers opportunities for my children, I get to show them the good that people can bring to their community, I am giving them a model to aspire to, I am showing them that I value their education, that they are not alone.

I AM INVOLVED.

These reasons may not interest you but I bet there is something for you at P&C. Our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting and my P&C Association is looking for members of the community who are willing and able to represent and advocate for parents. I bet your school P&C is exactly the same? Our school is a richer place for the contribution of parents and citizens.

HAVE YOU GOT TIME FOR AN INVESTMENT?

JOIN YOUR P&C





GONSKI IS CHANGING KIDS' LIVES

"We have been able to lift the reading levels of students in Year 7 by one year already."

SOME OF THE STUDENTS LEVELS HAVE BEEN LIFTED BY 3 OR 4 YEARS."

Christine Cawsley, AM
Principal of Rooty Hill High School

HERE'S HOW GONSKI FUNDING IS GETTING RESULTS IN NSW SCHOOLS

- Smaller class sizes and more one-on-one attention
- Greater support for students with learning disabilities
- Expanded literacy and numeracy programs

Don't let the Turnbull Government stop it now.

"WE SAW 18 MONTHS OF GROWTH IN CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC LEVELS on top of their chronological year growth."

Garry Carter
Principal of Casino Public School

OUR KIDS NEED THE FULL GONSKI FUNDING igiveagonski.com.au

Authorised by John Dixon, General Secretary, NSW Teachers Federation, 23-33 Mary St, Surry Hills 2010.



EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Parent and Community Engagement Forums

The end of October and the month of November has seen further 7 Parent and Community Engagement Forums being held in P&C Federation electoral areas, 2 in the Southern Central Tablelands electorate, 1 in the Far West electorate and 1 in the Mid North Coast electorate, 1 in the Macarthur electorate, 1 in the North Coast electorate and 1 in the Sydney Electorate.



Education

NORTH COAST – MULLUMBIMBY

Terry Timms, North Coast electorate Councillor kicked off the forum with Acknowledgement of Country, followed by an overview of the agenda, the new look P&C Federation and the services available to P&C Associations.

Dominic Youe – Team leader from Headspace Tweedheads presented the service available to our youth aged 12-24yrs, some of the concerns, issues and signs for parents to look out for as well as how to access the service.

Ciaran Carrolan – Manager at Byron/ Mullumbimby Community Mental Health, joined Dominic to reiterate what Dominic was

presenting and the importance of parents, while giving their young person some space, they are also aware of how they are going.

Donna Pearson – Principal at Mullumbimby High School answered questions from attendees around the variety of services and programs that are directed at supporting our students.

Daryl Jacobs – DoE Director for Tweed, presented on the DoE reforms including LSLD, clarifying the reforms did not give others the right to make decisions for the school as it is the Principals role, but that the school community should be included in consultation. Daryl also spoke about the

Wellbeing framework and how it may include varied supports for a student during their school life.

Marty Wheately Representative from Teachers Federation, presented for Gonski and the importance for the funding to be implemented for the full period promised, he asked attendees to get involved and gave ideas on how they may do this. Terry Timms and Tim Spencer, Councillor for North West Sydney ended the forum with a short discussion around small schools, the Boards achievement in the last 9mths, its focus, strategic plans and where to from here for P&C Federation.

SOUTHERN CENTRAL TABLELANDS – QUEANBEYAN

Southern Central Tablelands electorate held their 1st Forum on Saturday 31st October at Queanbeyan Public School.

Delegate Kym Bush lead the coordination for this event with catering provided by Queanbeyan Public School P&C Association and Jerrabomberra Public School P & C Association.

Susie Boyd P&C Federation Secretary opened the forum with Acknowledgement of Country on behalf of Jason Vials Councillor

for Southern Central Tablelands, Susie spoke about P&C Federation's role at school level, our services and what can we do to serve our members better.

Susie then gave her presentation on Grants which always gains interest and prompts P&C Associations to check whether they are Incorporated or not. Carolynne Merchant –Director Southern Tablelands DoE spoke on LSLD and the changes that are taking place in our schools.

Kelly Bowman presented on Gonski, delivering a passionate presentation on the need for Gonski funding to include the final 2yrs promised.

While numbers were very low, this gave those who attended more opportunity to participate in open discussion and to raise any concerns or questions they had as well as share ideas and network.



MID NORTH COAST – TAREE

The 2nd forum for the Mid North Coast electorate was held on Saturday 7th November at Chatham High School in Taree. What we thought was going to be a very small gathering, ended with a very pleasing number of attendees.

Roslyn Deal – Councillor for the Mid North Coast lead the forum, Mr Willem Holvast Chatham High School Principal gave a warm welcome and a short introduction of his school and some of their achievements and the partnership with his P&C Association. DoE Director Mr Mark Youngblutt gave

an overview of the new programs being implemented by the DoE as well as clarification around LSLD and the varied funding schools receive for students.

Local Member for Myall Lakes Mr Steve Bromhead attended, giving us a brief insight to his background as well as his families involvement as P&C Association members, Mr Bromhead spoke about the process and opportunities for funding and while a funding application may not be successful the first time, not to be discouraged to reapply the following year.

Many of the questions asked were related to applying for funding and what their status needs to be to do so, how do P&C Associations increase numbers in their P&C Association? Attendees expressed that forum gatherings were successful and requested them to be held more often. The attendees thought networking with other P&C Associations was a great way to share ideas. Sharing strategies that P&C Associations have used to increase and engage new members would be valuable information to distribute to all P&C Associations.



FAR WEST – DUBBO

The Far West electorate held its second Parent and Community Engagement forum at Dubbo Public School on Thursday 19th November. The night provided an opportunity for P&C Associations from around the electorate to be provided with information about P&C Federation, presented by Natalie Walker the Far West Electorate Councillor for P&C Federation.

Other speakers included Diane Darcy Western Zone 1 President for The Aboriginal Educational Consultative Committee (AECG), Michael Cronk DoE Director for Macquarie Network speaking about Local Schools Local Decisions and Gillian Thatcher from Australian School Plus via Skype.

The forum was successful with a lovely turnout from the Macquarie Network of

P&C Associations with many travelling from the Dubbo area, Peak Hill, and Wellington. Thanks goes out to Dubbo Public School P&C Association for hosting the evening and providing catering.



MACARTHUR – MOSS VALE

In the evening of Monday 26th October, Joel Matthews Councillor for Macarthur electorate ran the 2nd forum to be held in the Macarthur Electorate for 2015 at Moss Vale High School.

Joel started the forum by introducing Principal Peter Macbeth Principal of Moss Vale High School, Peter was extremely welcoming of P&C Federation and spoke about his school and some of the great things they have achieved. Joel then spoke about the changes to P&C Federation and the services it provides to its members. Karen Sinclair and Rodger Reiger –Directors

from the Department of Education (DoE) spoke about Local Schools Local Decisions (LSLD) and how consultation with the school community may take place but clearly clarified that the final decisions lie with the Principal.

Craig Clever –Director DoE presented the new Wellbeing framework for public schools, explaining the mindset of welfare has changed to wellbeing and this hopefully will carry through the students school life from the beginning to the end.

Sandra May – DoE has recently taken on the role to help build resources in the

schools regarding the learning support team. John Black from Teachers Federation gave a great presentation for Gonski, informing those in attendance what the school community can do to support it. Joel Matthews gave a presentation on Grants and the opportunities that may assist P&C Associations as well as the school and students, giving another avenue to gain funds. Joel closed the forum with feedback from attendees stating more forums were needed.



SYDNEY – DACEYVILLE

Samantha Pearce, Sydney Councillor started the day by welcoming everyone before a guest speaker filled forum. Rod MegaheyDoE Director for Educational services, accompanied by Sylvia Corish Director Port Jackson Network and Susan Shelley Director Botany Bay Network, delivered a presentation focused on parent engagement in schools. Parents rights to be involved, where/how/why they can and should be involved and what this means as well as suggested best practice.

A terrific good news story was heard from Justine Bennett and Kilty O'Brien

members of Bondi Beach Public School P&C Association, they spoke about the power of the P&C Association when they work together to achieve a goal that will benefit students now and in the future. They worked hard to advocate to save PSSA in Centennial Park. This would not only benefit their children but hundreds of children from other schools who also use the park.

Special guest speaker Dr Margaret Rawsthorne – Senior lecturer at University of Sydney and author of “Putting the P back in P&Cs” delivered a positive presentation on the importance of this topic, Cara Varian

from Harding Miller Foundation spoke about scholarships and the opportunities for students, her key point when applying was make sure the criteria is addressed and give as much information as possible. Carla Stacey facilitated a discussion group regarding parent engagement, resources and networks. There was also time for some attendees to chat with Samantha about support, advice or direction for their P&C Association.



SOUTHERN CENTRAL TABLELANDS – ORANGE

A small but select crowd gathered for the first P&C Federation forum to be held in Orange (Southern Central Tablelands electorate) in many years. Our thanks to Orange High School for hosting the event and to their staff and students for being so welcoming.

Secretary of P&C Federation, Susie Boyd, fired attendees enthusiasm with information on applying for grants, and it was agreed a grant writing workshop would take place in the region early in 2016. Further funding ideas were offered by video link by Gillian

Thacker from the new Australian Schools Plus group, that aims to assist in linking schools to potential donor partners, while offering tax deductibility status for eligible schools.

Our thanks to Maree Angus, Peter Harvey and Glenn Stewart from the Department of Education for their update on the new initiatives being rolled out that have the capacity to make a big difference to our students.

There was an update on the work P&C Federation has been doing, as well as a Gonski funding update. The potential upside

for our local schools was discussed, and participants left fired up to make sure both sides of Federal Parliament were going to deliver these outcomes for the kids of Australia.

The suggestion of more regular opportunities being provided within the electorate for P&C Associations to meet was well supported. Sharing experiences, and seeing what our neighbors are doing, benefits all of us.



10

Reasons to Send Your Child to Camp

School camp is a wonderful experience for children and one that they'll look back on with many fond memories and personal recollections.

For some parents the first camp experience with a child is the rush and excitement of the early morning drop off, and the promise of longer sleep-ins with no school pick-ups or drop offs for a few days. Watching your child eagerly awaiting the camp coach to pull up, ready to learn and discover new things and standing tentatively with a fully packed camping bag and a pillow under one arm brings back memories of your own camp experience, perhaps it was the possums breaking into tents, the scary camp fire ghost stories or the never ending roster of who is on dish duty and when.

It's only natural for some children to be a tad nervous when embarking on the camp experience for the very first time. For many kids it's their first big trip away from home in an unfamiliar setting and without their support network or creature comforts.

Parents can support their children in a number of ways to help ease their worries and concerns and encourage them towards having an adventurous and fruitful camp experience.

If your child is going to camp for the first time think about all of the incredible benefits that they'll gain and remember to talk to them about your own camp experience. Many children on camp come back with more life skills and have a newfound sense of confidence and resilience. Children don't want to miss out on being with their peers and experiencing the inner satisfaction of tackling their fears head on and developing their own independence.

There are so many reasons to send your child to camp and it's a good journey for a parent too, to be able to trust and let go, knowing that your child is in a structured environment and under the best possible care.

If you're on the fence about school camp consider these **ten reasons** to give your child the opportunity to experience camp.

1. MEMORIES ARE MADE AT CAMP

Magical memories, that don't involve mum or dad. Having experiences away from home builds confidence in kids and an independent spirit.

2. TIME AWAY IS TIME TO THRIVE

Kids flourish in a camp environment. Away from parents and the pressures of school, they grow in self-reliance, respect and responsibility. They get to make decisions for themselves, without the guidance of parents or teachers, and develop their identity.

3. FOSTERING SPUNK IN KIDS SINCE FOREVER

Fortitude, grit, backbone...whatever you want to call it, kids get this in bucket loads at camp. They get to step outside their comfort zone, try new things and see that even with setbacks, they will eventually succeed.

4. TECHNOLOGY DETOX

Camp gets kids more active and social. By unplugging technology, kids interact more with their environment and engage in creative thinking. They eat and sleep better and have greater focus. It's green time, not screen time and it's something that camp does well.

5. RECONNECTING WITH NATURE

Studies show being in nature boosts concentration, aids creative play and improves health and wellbeing. It can even reduce stress. Daily exposure to the green outdoors also nurtures naturally brighter children too. That's a win-win in any parents' books.

6. BEST FRIENDS ARE MADE AT CAMP

For kids, the chance to play with other kids is one of the best things about camp. Along the way, they also cultivate emotional and social skills that build character and bolster confidence and self-esteem. Some kids even make friends for life.

7. JUST LIKE RIDING A BIKE

With so many activities on offer, camp gives kids the chance to try a variety of activities and discover what they like to do. It's also the perfect environment to learn and develop skills that will stay with them for life.

8. IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED

With every new experience and activity, kids at camp learn that success comes from determination and persistence. And this builds confidence that stays with them in the classroom, on the sports field and throughout life.

9. ACTIVE, ALL DAY LONG

It's all go, go, go at camp. From sun up to sun down, kids can take part in an endless number of activities and games that get them off the couch and outdoors being active.

10. UNSTRUCTURED PLAY

When kids play, they get to tap into their creativity. They learn to relax and how to handle stress and conflict. It's empowering and a great self-teacher.

Camp delivers so many direct and indirect benefits that parents who are at first reluctant, often become its biggest advocate. Seeing kids return from camp, full of vim and vigour and that little bit more grown up is a heartening thing for a parent. Knowing that some kids will cherish these memories for life? Priceless.

Sport and Recreation hold a range of school holiday kids' camps in unique centres throughout NSW. Find out more about the school camps offered at **Sport and Recreation** or call **13 13 02**.

Did you know Sport and Recreation also offer kids' camps in the school holidays? Check out their upcoming dates.



facebook
www.fb.com/parkequip



- Playgrounds
- School Seating
- Shade Structures
- Tiered Seating
- Safety Surfacing
- COLAS
- Picnic Tables
- Covered Walkways



PH 02 9725 5604

www.parkequip.com.au

NSW Agent for Steel, Post & Rail

Unit 2, 19 Tarlington Place
Smithfield NSW 2164
info@parkequip.com.au

**Local Government
PROCUREMENT
APPROVED CONTRACTOR**



PARKEQUIP
park & play solutions



SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR ACHIEVES FURTHER MILESTONES



What started as an acoustic test event for Sydney's newest large entertainment venue over 30 years ago has now become one of the largest annual performance events by public school students in the world. It even has a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest entertainment event of its kind in the world.

The 2015 show also made history for another reason: it was one of the last events to be held at the Qantas Credit Union Arena (formerly the Sydney Entertainment Centre), before the complex's demolition.

Also for the first time, the Spectacular featured a group of international performers on the show. A group of five students and teachers from Nigbo, China, performed a mesmerising Terracotta Warrior piece, accompanied by the Spectacular orchestra.

The 2015 theme of *'This is our World'* gave scope for the leaders of tomorrow to explore their place in the world, experience diverse cultures and excite audiences across

two days of live performance (and through a later television broadcast).

Many thousands of students – and staff – from public schools all around New South Wales came together at this iconic event to celebrate and demonstrate their talents and diversity.

The 2015 broadcast (on the Nine Network) was expected to reach over 1,000,000 viewers across the country.

Social media engagement with the Schools Spectacular pages and Nine's platforms was also extremely strong, for both the live broadcast and the catch-up screenings on GEM. During the broadcast

#SchoolsSpectacular trended second across Australia.

The event has also proven a launch pad for professional entertainment careers for an impressive number and array of performers like Paulini, Human Nature and Nathan Foley. Even the Spectacular's long-standing musical director John Foreman is the proud product of a NSW public school.

The continuing focus on creating opportunities for students has meant that, this year, professional musicians worked with a group of budding student songwriters to create an original song which had its premiere at *'This is our World'*. In clear recognition of its popularity, 'Supernova' reached the Top 100 chart in iTunes when it went live on 20 November 2015.

International research has proven that involvement in the arts results in increased engagement and improved results for students, and high-quality, participatory





arts education has been shown to have the greatest impact on students' self-esteem and life satisfaction.

The Schools Spectacular is a marvellous forum to provide those experiences, enriching the lives of participants and audience members alike.

The show will be back, bigger than better than ever, in 2016.

For early bird ticket offers for 2016, news and behind-the-scenes action, visit the Schools Spectacular website at www.schoolsspectacular.com.au, follow on Twitter and like on Facebook.

The full gallery of photographs from the 2015 shows can be viewed on: http://www.schoolsspectacular.com.au/the-show/gallery/?_gallery=&_year=2015&_type=



SURF'S UP IN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CLASSROOM EXHIBITION

Since 2011, another program has been running alongside Schools Spectacular.

The World's Biggest Classroom (WBC) project was created as an opportunity for schools to be involved in the Schools Spectacular experience in a non-performance sphere.

The aim of WBC is to celebrate the skills of students in all areas of the NSW curriculum, adding depth to the community's understanding and appreciation of the amazing and diverse work occurring in NSW public schools every day.

The exhibition program involves more than 4,000 students from over 200 public schools state-wide. Their visual art, multimedia and literary projects displayed at venues across

Sydney, from shopping centres to railway stations.

The exhibition at Westfield Warringah Mall followed one of the suggested themes, 'Footprint Free'.

To communicate a message of coastal sustainability, twenty-one students from a number of local schools (Allambie Heights, Avalon, Brookvale, Collaroy Plateau, Manly Vale, Mona Vale and Narrabeen North Public Schools, along with Arranoubai School and Barrenjoey High School) decorated recycled surfboards donated by local community members specifically for the project.

The works explore the concept of 'treading lightly' on the coastal environment, so as to not leave a footprint, and reminds the

community that protecting their own piece of paradise is everyone's responsibility.

The full range of 2015 WBC projects can be seen on www.schoolsspectacular.com.au/wbc.

WBC is proudly supported by Sydney Trains, the Qantas Credit Union Arena, and Westfield (which has been behind the project since its inception).



DUTY OF CARE

Student Injury Insurance



Is your school community aware that the NSW Department of Education (DoE) does not provide accident or medical insurance for students enrolled in government schools? We quite often get asked by our members why the P&C Association should pay for insurances that the DoE should be providing, the answer remains that the DoE does not provide, nor has it ever provided, accident or medical insurance for students enrolled in government schools. Rather, the department is insured so that it can meet the financial impact of any legal liabilities arising from its activities.

For example, if the department or one of its staff is negligent and this causes a student to be injured, then the student will be able to legally recover damages from the department (and the department's insurance will cover the cost). However, if an accident occurs at a school and it is not caused by any wrongdoing or omission by the department, then the department's insurance does not cover the student. The NSW Treasury Managed Fund provides cover for the department's day-to-day activities. The public liability component covers breaches by the department in its duty of care to students that result in claims for compensation.

A group personal accident and sickness policy is available to government schools through the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW. Each school (either through the principal or the school's parents and citizens association) is able to participate on a whole-school basis with the

cost calculated on a set fee per student. Parents are unable to insure children individually. The policy covers a wide range of injuries and the permanent total loss of the use or functioning of certain body parts.

This policy is not restricted to school operating hours or school activities and the great news for Principals and School Administration is that there is no paperwork other than the purchasing forms and if required claim form. Where a claim is required to be made P&C Federation and the insurance underwriters handle the process from start to finish.

P&C Federation encourages your P&C Association and School to consider Student Injury Insurance. This product could provide peace of mind for the families of children enrolled in your school. This low cost product covers every student enrolled in your school 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Note; that there have been improvements in the Student Injury Policy for 2016-17 policy period, with the inclusion of Ambulance Cover in Cover 2 – Whilst at home, and a 10% reduction in the per student premium.

Unfortunately, a lot of our school communities have experienced accidents where students have been involved which result in injury or even worse death. P&C Federation regularly witness claims under the Student Injury Insurance policy which have provided medical and monetary relief to distressed and affected families.

Don't wait for a bad event to occur before you put cover in place. Now is the time to seriously discuss your school community needs. Contact P&C Federation to purchase Student Injury Insurance. For those wishing to purchase this policy all the resources, including policy wording is available on the Organisation's website; www.pandc.org.au under the 'Insurance' tab or contact insurance@pandc.org.au or 1300885982.

P&C Federation insurances, proudly providing cover for our students.



Dreams start with play

CALL US NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE.
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT • SHADE SAILS • SYNTHETIC GRASS
SOFT FALL • WETPOUR RUBBER SURFACING



(02) 9758 8933 | www.playparks.com.au
Unit 8, 6-20 Braidwood St, Strathfield South NSW 2136

P&C OFFICER HANDOVER CHECKLIST

It happens every year at P&C Associations all over the state, the AGM is held and new members take office bearer positions. It can be a daunting and stressful time if the incoming officers have no experience in the position or if the handover from previous officers is not complete.

To ensure the smooth running of your P&C Association (so that you can continue seamlessly to support the school and students) P&C Federation has put together the following basic checklist. By no means is this list exhaustive but it gives a good idea of the kind of things to be looking for during a handover to ensure that you can focus on what you are there for and not chasing endlessly to make sure you are up to date.

PRESIDENT / SECRETARY

- Copies of roles and responsibilities for Office Bearers
- Current P&C Association Constitution and Association By-Laws
- All Subcommittee Rules
- Certificate or details of Incorporation (if Incorporated)
- Other P&C policies eg. Code of Conduct; Grievance, Complaints Policy and Procedure; Money Handling Procedures etc.
- Current employee letters/contracts of employment and details
- ABN
- ACNC access details including access path and passwords
- Email account details including access path and passwords
- Letter from the ATO advising of DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status if a P&C Association has a school building fund.
- Standing orders / meeting procedures
- Register of P&C Association financial members
- Register of life members of P&C Association
- Minutes books with minutes from all meetings since the P&C Association commenced (or information on where the minutes are archived)
- Motions register (this is a suggestion only but it helps new executive continue ongoing actions from motions from the past) (Action sheet)
- Address list of contacts for assistance – Principal, P&C Federation, Fair Work, Work Cover, ATO, Australian Business Register, and ACNC.
- P&C Association template for the formats of the agenda, minutes, financial reports
- A list of any important issues/projects which need to be followed up or continued by the new executive
- Any diary that has been kept by the P&C Association on issues, events and/or invitations attended by the outgoing executive
- Calendar of important dates for the P&C Association. This can include: School Holidays, Public Holidays, Student free days, dates that bills, insurances, payments are due, Dates that have been set from previous meetings, P&C Day etc.
- Books of accounts for current and previous year
- Achieved books and paper work for past 5 years.
- Registers for building fund/DGR (deductible gift recipient), if the P&C Association has one.
- Cheque, receipt, invoice and order books
- Assets register
- Payroll information including Payee, staffing information, superannuation etc.
- Auditor's statements and reports for past seven years including current year
- Information of insurances held by the P&C Association and when these fall due for renewal
- Bank form for change of signatories for P&C Association general, subcommittee and any investment accounts
- Copy of the Guide for Treasurers available from www.pandc.org.au

AFTER THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Bank Accounts**
Signatories need to be changed and updated with the bank for all P&C Association bank accounts including any subcommittee accounts; this may require you to have a copy of the AGM minutes as supporting documentation.
- Is your organisation incorporated?**
If yes, you must send a copy of the signed audited financial statements to P&C Federation within one month of the AGM. If not contact P&C Federation and get more information. Refer to website www.pandc.org.au .

TREASURER

Suggest that the outgoing treasurer make a time with the incoming treasurer to do a handover and explain the accounting system that is being used at present.



□ **Member Register Update**

Complete P&C Federations Member Register Update; <http://pandc.org.au/index.php/members/member-register-update>- this will ensure that all of the office-bearer information is up to date.

□ **Affiliate webmail and email addresses**

Ensure that the President and Secretaries have access to the passwords for the P&C Association's email address as provided by P&C Federation. <http://webmail.pandcaffiliate.org.au>.
Should the P&C Association not have activated their email address please email request to mail@pandc.org.au .

□ **ABN**

Update the Australian Business Number (ABN) register. P&C Associations are required by law to tell the Registrar of the Australian Business Register within 28 days of any changes in your registered business details, including changes to the authorised contact person. www.abr.business.gov.au/

□ **ACNC**

Update the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Registration - P&C Associations will need to update the responsible person information and contact details within 60 days of any change. www.acnc.gov.au

There is information available on the P&C Federation website www.pandc.org.au and P&C Federation Member services officers and Staff are more than happy to help you locate information or guide you in the right direction. Contact the office on 1300 885 982 or mail@pandc.org.au .



Providing safety, comfort and style wherever people gather



Emerdyn for your School's furniture, fittings and facilities
p. 1800 980 008 m. 02 9534 1314 f. 02 9534 5298 e. sales@emerdyn.com.au www.emerdyn.com.au

WRITING A SUBMISSION

From time to time working parties request submissions from the wider community or anyone interested in voicing their opinion on a specific subject. This process is an integral part of hearing the voice of the stakeholders and affected parties in the decision making process.

Working parties are established to undertake enquiries into different policy or legislation. Often these parties request submissions as the first part of their investigations. Submissions are requested through many ways including, questionnaires, essay type submissions, multiple choice, or spoken submission. This is often the first part of the inquiry and the working party generally sets a “Terms of Reference” these are key issues, or directions that the working party is interested in or feels are particularly relevant to the Terms of Reference.

Once submissions have closed the working party collates the different submissions and takes the feedback and tables a report on the inquiry. Sometimes the working party holds hearings for the inquiry, this involves those stakeholders or interested parties that have presented submissions speaking in person to their submission. If you are lucky enough to be invited to speak at a hearing it is an opportunity to cement your views on the terms of reference and let the working party know face to face what is important to you.

P&C Federation receive many requests for submission on an annual basis, these inquiries range from road safety to curriculum implementation and many in between. P&C Federation makes submissions on these enquiries on behalf of Parents and Citizens throughout NSW. It is important that we all play an active part in policy and legislation decisions when we are given the opportunity.

At a local P&C association level or even a personal level you should consider having your say next time there is an enquiry that may affect your children or their schooling

or in fact the educational environments for generations to come you should make a submission and have your voice heard.

When writing a submission make sure you read the terms of reference and any additional information that is presented with the inquiry. Map out what you are going to say and the tone in which you want to say it. Planning your response always makes a difference in its cohesiveness.

Address the terms of reference that are relevant to you or your P&C Association (ensuring that if you are writing on behalf of your Organisation you are representing the views of the P&C Association and not your personal views) make concise and clear statements and then explain or expand on them. Use references to relevant documentation or reports if you feel it necessary.

Make sure you don't contradict yourself and definitely proof read it before you submit. If you can't find someone to proof read it for you, try printing the submission and reading it in hard copy with your “proof reading” hat on. Look for spelling mistakes, grammatical errors and most importantly make sure it makes sense.

Working parties often give you a deadline that is not negotiable so ensure you submit on time, there are normally a couple of ways you can submit, by mail, online, fax or email, check the details on the website for the enquiry to find out your options and make sure you leave enough time for your preferred submission method.

Most enquiries offer how to guides when making a submission, take note of these and use all of the resources provided.

Finally, don't be afraid to have your say, who knows you might influence policy or legislative decisions. Remember why we are all here; Our Children.



\$24,493.70 with 47 kids in just 28 days... now that's fundraising!



Break Our Records!

School Size	Highest Amount Raised	2nd Highest Amount Raised	3rd Highest Amount Raised
1-200	\$30,223.30	\$24,493.70	\$20,826.75
201-400	\$38,362.80	\$35,623.00	\$29,305.00
401-600	\$27,546.90	\$27,216.52	\$24,337.41
601-800	\$33,692.35	\$26,914.32	\$25,404.69
801+	\$29,308.30	\$27,779.90	\$25,081.90

It's game over for old fashioned fundraising!

We've been helping schools raise money since 1987, but in the last 24 months they've broken all our records... and they'll break them all again this year!

That's because we've unlocked the secret to school fundraising and we want to share it with you. It's so easy; you'll literally raise money while you sleep!

"Brilliant!

We raised a truckload of extra funding... and bought a school bus. We'll definitely be back next year!"



Grant Andrews,
St Patrick's College



To discover how we helped raise \$24,493.70 with 47 kids (in just 28 days), request an information kit today!

schoolfundraising.com.au

*Clothing
Aussie kids
for over 90 years*

Proudly an
Australian owned
family company

SCHOOL UNIFORMS MADE EASY



Colour consistency
year after year



Fast shipping



Free Delivery
Australia Wide



Free school logo
set up



Huge
Stock Levels



Quality Assured



We love
our customers



Extended Credit

LWRTM
Wear Quality



1300 LW Reid
(1300 59 7343)



care@lwreid.com.au

LW REIDTM
For one and all.



SHOP ONLINE
ANYTIME
www.lwreid.com.au