

P&C President's 2013 Annual Report

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts Parents and Citizens Association plays a significant role providing an active community of support for students and teachers. The contribution of parents is essential to students' learning and enjoyment of their high school years.

The P&C's Voluntary Fundraising Contribution, now in its fifth year, continues to raise significant funds. More than \$60,000 was contributed in 2013, similar to that raised in recent years. These funds have enabled substantial work to be undertaken to refurbish the Studio Theatre foyer and entrances including: the installation of a formal box office, poster display box, refixing wall posters, external painting, storage enhancements, new furniture, and lighting improvements. This project has involved a substantial commitment of parental time and expertise and, following the extensive earlier refitting of the patron, technical and performance spaces within the Studio Theatre, as well as the building of the Robin Am extension to the Theatre, is aimed at ensuring the school's principal venue for showcasing student achievement in the performing arts, demonstrates the high value placed on the performing arts at NHSPA.

Other highlights in 2013 included:

- Extensive commitment and involvement by various members of the P&C committee and the wider NHSPA parent community involving more than 30 occasions where a roster of three or more parents provided Front of House refreshments at Showcase, auditions, and orientations, as well as for other events such as the new families' welcome BBQ, and the annual Earth Festival, a significant contribution by families to the school's workings.
- The P&C Performing and Visual Arts Sub-Committee (PVASC) provision of essential support to the Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts faculties as well as to the Technical Company.
- A PVASC initiative, An Afternoon With... which saw creative arts industry professionals address parents and students in Q&A sessions.
- Financial contributions to the Dance Faculty Master Classes led by visiting US choreographer Garfield Lemonius; and the Faculty Support Sub-Committee's co-ordination of the P&C's grant assistance of the English, Maths, Science, HSIE, PDH/PE, Languages, and TAS faculties, as well as the Learning Space.
- The Building Sub-Committee's development of plans, detailed drawings and project management for the Studio Theatre Foyer refurbishment, and its audit of the school's stock of student lockers and the pricing of repair and replacement which will increase the number of secure storage facilities by more than half.
- The Environment Sub-Committee's planning and delivery of a successful working bee involving more than 30 parents, teachers and students which saw extensive weeding, planting, mulching, fence painting, paving repairs, and rubbish removal.

Monthly P&C meetings are held during school terms as well as various sub-committee meetings, and regular meetings between the P&C Executive and the School Executive. The NHSPA P&C program in 2014 includes: contributing to the 2015-17 School Plan, planning upgrade of the Studio Theatre toilets and the photography dark room, greening the administration block ellipse space and designing a portable performance structure for the area, and working with the School Executive on plans to improve the St Georges Hall performance space. It will clearly be another active and successful year.

Darren Mitchell

P&C President