

## **St Ives Park P&C – President’s Report**

### **February 2023**

It is wonderful to be back at school and for the P&C to be firing up again to support our wonderful school.

It has been great to have a break over the summer period, but we have started the year with a jump in our step and are looking forward to 2023 being a great year for SIPPS. 2023 also marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the establishment of public schools in NSW.

It is also incredibly pleasing that we have started the school year with so many additional students. The work we have done as a P&C is starting to pay off with our online marketing and promotion of the school locally.

Before I start to report on the things that have been happening since school returned, I would like to acknowledge the incredible work that took place since our last meeting in November.

**SIPPS Dad’s dinners** – the SIPPS Dad’s got together a few times since our last meeting. It is a great way for the Dads to connect with each other and learn more about the school.

**Christmas Raffle** – massive thanks must go to Jess for her work on the Christmas raffle. Another great success with all three prizes being donated meaning 100% profit for the P&C fundraising account.

**Hall AV Upgrade and SIPPS Tech Crew** – We finally completed the long awaiting upgrade work in the school hall late in the year. It also provided a brilliant opportunity for the school to create a new Tech Crew who can run the events and the Audio Visual systems. It is another great learning opportunity that has been created thanks to the support of the P&C volunteers.

**Canteen** – our wonderful canteen continued to operate right up to the end. IT is such an important service that is appreciated by our entire community. Massive thanks to Claire and her volunteers who make this possible each week.

**Uniform shop** – we started 2022 with so much second-hand uniform we were turning it away. Tanya and her team of volunteers throughout the year have successfully managed to on-sell the majority of this to a point where we are now asking for more second-hand uniform supplies.

**Online social media including year in review** video – the P&C supported the creation of a number of end of year online videos and a selection of video clips that were published throughout the summer break. These appear to have been very successful looking at the online stats. Over the summer break the school Facebook page picked up a further 34 followers.

**Presentation Day on 7 December** – Thanks to Caroline and the school staff for such an incredible presentation day. It was great that the P&C could support and facilitate the live streaming of the event. The stats showed that the UK and South Africa were the big audiences. This is certainly something that has gone down well with our community and something that the P&C can continue to support the school with as needed.

**P&C Christmas Dinner** – thank you to everyone for coming along to the Christmas dinner. It was a great way to unwind and end the year. Huge thanks to the organisers.



**Class Parents and Christmas gifts** – class parents really come into their own at Christmas time. Huge thanks to all the class parents for everything they did throughout the year and for their work in coordinating cards, gifts etc.

**End of year thank you morning tea** – Massive thanks to Jess for putting together an incredible morning tea for the staff and for the amazing gifts that we were able to provide for the leaving staff. It was a great opportunity for the staff to hear how grateful the parent community is for all their incredible work.

**Y6 Farewell event** – thanks to the year 6 farewell committee for putting on a very successful year 6 farewell disco. The Bowling club venue works very well. Also, huge thanks to Rene who also gave up her evening to support and volunteer at this event. The kids all had a great time.

On the 16th December we received news from the NSW Department of Education of the **confirmed boundary change to the current Catchment intake area** for SIPPS and St Ives PS. The catchment area for SIPPS has been expanded as per our recommendations in Term 1 of 2022. SIPPS will also receive special staffing status meaning that if students numbers drop significantly then staffing numbers will be maintained. The school and P&C will also receive some additional marketing funding from the Department to support the enrolment marketing efforts. This is a massive win for SIPPS and hopefully will support securing the future of our school.

Unfortunately, we also received notification in December that our grant application for the NSW Community Building Partnership grant was unsuccessful. Luckily for us, we still have the plans and diagrams that were drawn up for this grant and we can always try again in 2023.

Over the break the P&C Executive continued to work on a number of items including:

**Canteen prices** – we now have a confirmed price increase in the canteen which has been published. Thank you to Claire for her work on this from overseas and also the executive for making decisions in such a timely manner.

**Website update** – thanks to Felicity for her incredible work in getting our online presence updated.

**Quotes for Tennis Court Fences** – we have now engaged 10 separate contractors to try and get quotes for the tennis court gates/access. We have finally managed to get a sensible quote in and are now working on scheduling this work. Huge thanks to the executive for jumping on the approval of expenditure for these works in the middle of the Christmas holidays.

**NSW Parents Back to School Vouchers** – Work continues on trying to have the P&C as a registered organisation that can accept the Back-to-School Vouchers. It is exceptionally frustrating that this process is not more simple for charity organisations such as our own.

**Westpac and Bendigo bank** – thanks to Lorna for her continued work in migrating bank accounts. This has been a huge task for Lorna and it is very appreciated.

Since the start of Term we have also been busy in many ways. Including:

**Uniform Shop** – it was incredible that we have been able to kit out an entire school in new uniform ready for the start of 2023. Thank you so much to Tanya for everything you do. I know we only see the half of what you have to do, thank you it is very appreciated.



**New Kindy Playdate @ Athena Park** – thanks to everyone who came along to the Kindy Welcome playdate at Athena Park.

Despite only a few families turning up and the 35 degree humid weather that afternoon, it was great to connect with new families to the school.

**Welcome Kindy Morning Tea** – Huge thanks to Jess for yet another amazing morning tea. The new Kindy parents really appreciated the opportunity to relax after dropping their kids off and to meet the P&C and other parents in a more informal setting. What a great way to welcome them to SIPPS.

**Stationary Packs** – we ran with the stationary packs for parents again this year. We had a total of 27 ordered, but despite the low numbers we still managed to add some additional funds to our fundraising kitty.

**Class Parent WhatsApp Groups** – huge thanks to Karen for getting the Class Groups up and running so quickly. The day the classes were communicated, by that evening we all had new groups to join and new shing icons in our WhatsApp lists. Thank you so much for all you do Karen, this form of communication is an essential tool for our community.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Karen for all her work in supporting the new Kindy families and getting them so well connected with each other and the school. The WhatsApp group certainly makes a big difference with several Kindy parents letting me know how useful it has been.

Finally, I would just like to thank everyone who is involved in the P&C whether onsite volunteering or behind the scenes. Time is precious and we never have enough of it so thank you all so much for your amazing work in creating a better SIPPS for our kids.

**Stewart Duncan**  
**P&C President**  
**February 2023**