



## **2024-11-18 ANNUAL COLLEGE COMMUNITY MEETING**

### **CHAIR OF THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN BOSCO REPORT**

2024! What a year it was. It has been wonderful for the Friends to work alongside the College in both spectacular fundraising events and also just wonderful fun events for our children and our Bosco Community.

We certainly started the year with a bang for our annual Welcome Back event. We gave everyone time to settle into the College year and then mid Term One, had what we can only call the best ever welcome back event. We received so much amazing feedback from parents and students on what a wonderful afternoon it was. We love that we can put on this event for everyone each year.

#### **Fundraising Highlights of 2024:**

- Markedly the biggest single fundraising event this year was the return of our Quiz Night. It was so wonderful to see so many of our community gather in the Mazzarello Sport and Recreation Centre for a wonderful night. We raised over \$13,000 and look forward to hosting another parent event soon, it really had been too long.
- The Primary Disco was held for the first time in the Mazzarello Sport and Recreation Centre which provided such a fun space for our students to move and groove. Coupled with the delicious Big Slice pizza van and lolly stall it was an amazing event.
- Without fail, our Easter raffle was a huge success. We had so many donations towards our raffle that this year and we gave back a bit too. We coupled with St Francis Xavier Parish in providing some easter goodies of chocolates and art and craft to those in need. Our raffle raised almost \$2000.
- Our VIP tents are a huge hit! We raised over \$1000 for our Primary Athletics Carnival tent and do not you worry yes we will again be running a VIP spot for our Christmas Concert. Details will be out soon.

There are other events, that whilst do not raise large funds, still help us build our finances to achieve our goals:

- Primary and Secondary Athletics Carnival sausage sizzles
- Entertainment Books
- Subway lunches
- Pizza lunches, provided by our very own Pisano Bosco family
- Cash for cans
- Hot cross bun drive
- Carpark raffles

As always, it was a delight to host our Mums and Dads at their respective breakfasts. Year after year more parents come along to our Mother and Father Day Celebrations. Obviously, word is getting out that the bacon and egg rolls are amazing.

We started the year with a healthy bank balance of just over \$37,000, and with the addition of all the above fundraising, at one point we had well over \$80,000 in the bank. It is a phenomenal amount which we have been pleased to use for:

- \$500 towards the Year 7 Orientation BBQ
- \$1,000 towards tables and chairs in Don's Café.
- \$5,000 to provide our Welcome Back event to our community
- \$7,000 towards the Year 7 camp for 2025, this provides additional entertainment and fun for the students, including a magician and birds of prey.
- Last but not least, our biggest donation to date of \$47,500 is towards the new playground for our Upper Primary.

We end the year with just over \$23,000 in the bank, a nice healthy balance to commence the year with. We look forward to seeing what these funds achieve, along with further fundraising throughout 2025. We ask that the College get working on their wish lists so we can make some goals and maybe break some more records.

All of our events are not possible without our Bosco Community. You and your children attend our events, buy our special lunches, make donations, buy raffle tickets and it has been great to see some new faces along the way volunteering their time. Special thanks to those who continue to volunteer their time, and our class representatives who share our information and help promote what we do.

To the College staff, thank you for your time in attending meetings and organising events with us. We appreciate what you do in assisting us on event days, sending out communications and your general support.

Finally to the students, it is a pleasure to see them enjoying discos, our welcome back day and most importantly enjoying the many things our funds have contributed to providing throughout the College.

Then there is my support crew, I have loved working with each committee over the years. Special thanks to our 2024 crew: Jennifer Hebden Vice Chair who we farewelled earlier in the year; Belinda Law Treasurer; Jonnelle McPherson Secretary; Hailee Norwood our Representative to the Advisory Council and General Committee member Danial Newbey.

With that my time as Chair of the Friends and as a committee member comes to an end, along with our Treasurer Belinda at the end of her second term and not renominating. We welcome those who have nominated to join the Friends from 2025 and cannot wait to see what lies ahead. With new faces we look forward to new ideas and big goals.

We wish everyone a joyous Christmas, and the very best for 2025!

Kylie O'Neill  
Chair  
Friends of St John Bosco Committee  
November 18, 2024