



ST JOHN BOSCO
COLLEGE
JOY IN LEARNING

2020-11-23 ANNUAL COLLEGE COMMUNITY MEETING PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN BOSCO

The Friends of St John Bosco is all about building a sense of community and raising funds for the ongoing enhancement of the education provided at St John Bosco College.

2020 has undoubtedly been a year like no other. As a result of COVID-19 much of the fundraising vision of the Friends for 2020 did not come to fruition. However, like other times our Community has faced adversity, 2020 has seen us come together to support one another, support the College, and ensure our children had all their physical, academic and emotional needs met.

Despite our shift in focus, the Friends have been extremely active behind the scenes, laying the groundwork for the continuation of our vision in 2021.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership and dedication shown by your Executive team – Mr Vice President - Craig Meyer, Mr Secretary - Jon Knox, Madam Treasurer - Kristie Bell and Madam Representative to the Board – Joanne Della Maddalena.

Some of our highlights for 2020:

- **The Friends of St John Bosco Facebook page** has continued as the leading method of sharing information with our wider College community.
- **Bosco Community Celebration** – our first official event for 2020. It was great to see our Bosco community having family fun on a balmy afternoon. We had a great time mingling with staff, forging new friendships, sliding down the giant slides, competing in a range of sporting events, dunking the staff and much, much more.
- **Bunnings Sausage sizzle** – once again, the Bosco community threw themselves behind this annual fundraiser through donations of food and drinks and of course, manning the stall at Bunnings Harrisdale on the day. COVID-19 regulations meant we required additional volunteers to man each station and had to comply with specific COVID-19 health requirements including stylish blue plastic aprons!

Special thanks go to *Crossroads Mechanical, Perez Fencing, Sparks & Spanners W.A. and the Murray family* for their generous donations.

- We have successfully moved to an online payment system for in-advance and on-the-day fundraising.
- As representatives of The Friends, Jon and I were invited to attend a Community Cabinet meeting with the West Australian Government. Taking full advantage of this opportunity, we spoke with our Education Minister, The Hon Sue Ellery and Mayor of the City of Armadale, Ruth Butterfield to discuss our need for speed management along Monticello Parkway. This conversation resulted in the installation of the 40km/h speed zoning currently posted on our surrounding streets.

Some of our events hold a lesser status but are by no means any less crucial to our fundraising efforts.

They are:

- Baker's Delight Harrisdale dough raiser
- Stuck on You labels
- Entertainment Books
- Baker's Delight Hot Cross Bun drive
- School Banking
- School lunches
- Athletics Carnivals Sausage Sizzles
- Events Partnership with Boost Juice and Groovin' Beans Coffee

In addition to fundraising events, we have continued our efforts to Friend-raise. This year we once again held a successful and memorable celebration for Father's Day. Regrettably, our Bosco mums missed out on celebrating Mother's Day due to COVID-19 restrictions. We look forward to making it up to you next year.

None of our events would have been possible without the generous donation of time and material items from you, our Bosco community. I would like to acknowledge all volunteers, whether ongoing or otherwise. As they say, many hands make light work; and every single contribution has assisted us this year.

I would like to give special thanks to our College leadership team and staff, Friends Executive team, past Presidents of The Friends, Friends sub-committee volunteers, class representatives, lunch helpers, school banking volunteers and event volunteers.

As previous Friends executive would attest, we also need to recognise our partners. Without their ongoing support behind the scenes to balance our family lives we would not be able to give as much as we do to the College. So, thank you to my wife Julia, Craig's wife Siminette, Jon's wife Anne-Marie, Kristie's husband Dave and Joanne's husband Albert.

Since the last AGM, net funds raised by The Friends of St John Bosco (including family levies and all events) are more than \$17,000. These funds have gone straight back into the College and our children's education.

Donations made by the Friends in 2020 include:

- \$2,801 towards a defibrillator and cabinet including staff training
- \$1,000 towards a new freezer for the Bosco Cafe
- \$440 towards the annual subscription to The Fathering Project
- \$600 towards Year 6 Graduation gifts
- \$548.95 towards an iPad and cover for School Banking and fundraising

We have also committed \$20,000 towards the production and installation of our new fitness/exercise area and a further \$4,000 towards our new filtered hot water system in the Bosco Café.

Some final fundraising reminders as we move into the Festive season and summer break:

- When you head out to do your Christmas food shopping, drop into Baker's Delight Harrisdale for your baked goods and tell them St John Bosco sent you. This is part of our continuous dough raiser fundraiser.

- Entertainment Books are 100% digital, have single or multi-city options and are valid for 12 months from activation, which makes them an attractive Christmas gift. Refer to the Friends Facebook page for the unique fundraising link.
- As you purchase new uniforms, lunchboxes and water bottles for 2021, do not forget to order your name labels from Stuck on You. Again, the unique fundraising link is on the Friends Facebook page.

Last year at this end of my report I gave you the year's break down in stats - how many sausages were sizzled, how many hot cross buns were eaten, how many lunches were ordered.

As our numbers were considerably lower this year, we are going to skip this part altogether.

I will finish instead by taking you back to March 2020.

COVID-19 hit.

The world was changing, borders were closing, and supply chains were shutting down. It was a time of anxiety and fear of the unknown for us all. We were running out of food and toilet paper; classrooms were running out of soap and sanitiser. Shoppers were going crazy, clearing the shelves of our supermarkets – and if you were not able to be there as soon as the doors opened, there was nothing left later. Staff were doing everything within their power to keep up a sense of normality for our children, all the while dealing with their own concerns about their health and how to protect and provide for their own families.

In true Bosco Community style, our families sprang into action to support those who were supporting our children. Bosco families donated whatever they could spare and together, we were able to provide a large and very generous gift of groceries for our Bosco staff to take home to their families. Messages of support and encouragement were sent alongside the bounty of goods, all of which gave our staff the emotional and material lift they desperately needed at such a difficult time.

In addition, families sent in whatever soap and sanitizer they could find, to be used at the College until the College could secure their own supplies.

On your behalf, The Friends also arranged a delivery of custom fondant cookies – with a simple message of thank you - to give our Bosco staff an extra sweet treat on those last difficult days before learning from home became our new normal.

I believe this spirit of giving and loving is our true strength as a community and a great credit to us all.

On behalf of The Friends of St John Bosco, I would like to thank our Bosco families for attending events, supporting fundraisers, and coming together during very uncertain times.

Wishing everyone a Wonderful Christmas and every happiness in the New Year.

Brett Mallott
President
Friends of St John Bosco
November 23, 2020