



St Mary's Catholic School  
Boyup Brook

## **Nomination – The P&F Association**

### **2018 Awards of Excellence in Building Positive Catholic School Communities**

The volume of excited and animated voices, full of new ideas, offering to help out, supportive tones and nods of agreement, greets me as I enter into the Administration area. This isn't the usual day, this is the morning after a P&F meeting and plans are already underway for the next venture. It helps to have passionate and committed parents, who always do their best to provide worthwhile fundraising events to provide educational resources for our students. They know families are busy and respectfully acknowledge that the farming community has seasonal busy times and so they plan and timetable projects around this and other town events.

They are parents from a small community, who are already on a variety of other committees in town, serving different roles and responsibilities, but that doesn't stop them from giving their all to each and every one of them, including our school P&F. This small band of dedicated P&F committee members would not shirk from any project, which requires an inordinate amount of time to ensure that each project is successful.

The P&F committee give an insurmountable effort to ensure that all projects run smoothly, but more importantly that all families contribute and feel included. At the beginning of the year, the P&F organize an afternoon of cricket, based on the Big Bash series, but with a humorous bent. Families form teams (no cricket skills required) and an imaginative scoring system chooses the winner. The evening concludes with presentations and a barbeque. This very popular family event unites the school community and sets the impetus for future school events.

The P&F at St Mary's use their cooking talents and business strengths in the catering area and their reputation for providing high quality baked goods has secured them as caterers for the town's ANZAC Day morning tea, Sandakan Memorial service morning tea, which provides for local, regional and overseas dignitaries and those who have served in the war. The P&F also cater for the Shire's Christmas function. They have rallied together, sometimes at very short notice, to provide catering for funerals and during tragic events. Parents also provide an excellent weekly service for our students and staff members in the canteen. Their community spirit extends to catering for the Lightning Carnival, whereby our students compete against the local public-school students in a variety of sporting events located around the town.

Another project for raising funds for our students is centred around the Country Music Festival. Whilst the school provides camping sites for visitors to Boyup Brook over the four festival days, the P&F manage the bookings, welcome and maintain the facilities for our visitors to enjoy. To entice campers to our school, the P&F are always willing to help out at Busy Bees to upgrade and maintain the school. The

community spirit is surely tested when it comes to Busy Bee time, but the response from this small community is outstanding in what they provide to make the job easier. Other small projects include fencing farming properties, which brought in a tidy sum of \$5000 for a day's work.

Parents take pride in our school, want the best education for their children and are prepared to help out in any way. The school community provides the opportunity for social gatherings and events, so it is with great anticipation that families look forward to contributing and participating in the school's biggest fundraiser of the year. The Bi-Annual Auction evening earned \$12,000 profit, an enormous feat for 100 people, who attended and an amazing effort by our P&F in organizing everything, from the Indian theme to supplying auction items, engaging a real-life auctioneer and the Indian cuisine. The alternate year saw the P&F conducting a raffle, with fabulous prizes for a South West accommodation package. The raffle raised \$6000 profit. This year the P&F are already planning for the auction in August and I know they will be successful again, because of the friendly support they give each other and their impressive skills in getting things done.

These events require a huge amount of behind the scenes organisation and with many willing parents, I am always amazed at how much this community does for the school. The funds raised have enabled senior students to attend camp, access online mathematics resources, purchase sets of reading resources, provided shade sails in eating areas, sporting equipment and educational equipment for classrooms to name a few. Therefore, it is a privilege to be able to nominate St Mary's P&F and I hope you will consider them for the *2018 Awards of Excellence in Building Positive Catholic School Communities*.

*Cathryn Voak*

Principal

14 April 2018