Firstly at this AGM I would like to acknowledge and thank the staff at Bathurst Public school for a truly successful 2011. Your commitment to our children is exceptional and it is why public education is leading the way in Bathurst.

Secondly I would like to thank each and every person who has volunteered to help out at the functions the P&C has run or assisted the school to run during 2011. Many hands do make light work when it comes to a Mother's or Father's day stall, PSSA District Athletics Carnival Canteen, Year 6 & Kindy t-towels, Bunnings BBQs, Year 6 mugs and as Parent Representatives on Selection panels.

Thirdly I would like to personally thank the small but dedicated crew who turned up at every P&C meeting come fair weather or foul to discuss what was going on at the school and brainstormed about how we could help, because it is the P&C’s aim to support the students, staff and families of the school.

The P&C made monetary donations for resources used to help student's learning, assisting with the purchase of white boards for the classrooms and to help students with the costs of representing BPS at State level for sports and cultural events. For example the P&C helped fund the Recorder, Violin and Choir to attend festivals held at the Opera House in 2011.

The P&C ran the Book Club and the Book Week Book Fair and earned commission that enabled the purchase of over $4000 worth of resources for our classrooms.

The P&C continued to support the BPS families with the Healthy Canteen, second hand clothing pool and the sale of school hats.

But perhaps more importantly the P&C functioned as a forum for the communication between the school principal and staff and parents/caregivers. This communication is and must always continue to be a two-way flow. Parents who attend our meetings are able to gain a greater understanding of the operation and management of the school, as the reasoning behind school policy can be clarified and explained. In turn the staff are able to use input and feedback from parents/caregivers when formulating school policies.

One of the things you learn through the involvement in the P&C is what a mammoth job it is to manage a school, how limited the funding is and how dedicated the teaching staff are.

I look forward to the continuing great partnership between the P&C and the school in 2012

Melanie Baines 21/3/2012