Meeting: Tuesday 13th November 2012
Meeting Start Time: 19:50
Location: School Library
Chair: P&C President – Jonathan Sanders
Apologies: Noel Christie-David, Jasmine Madon
Attendance: As per attendance book.

President’s Report
Jonathan Sanders - P&C President, 2010-12.

It has been a great pleasure for both Robin and I to be involved with the Normo P&C for the past six years, (and with Hornsby Girls P&C for four years prior to that). We have now finally reached the point where both our children have left the public school system, and so we now move on from our involvement in the P&C. After a decade of involvement with P&Cs, and with the joys (and occasional frustrations) of making them work, I hope you will forgive me if I mix in a few thoughts about the experience in general, as well as about Normo P&C over the past year.

I believe that the "P" in P&C actually stands for participation:
- Participation in your child’s life at a time when critical skills, attitudes and abilities are being developed
- Participation in the education system that is giving your child their start in adult life
- Participation in the decisions that help decide the general flavour of the school environment where your child spends most days
- Participation in the community of children, families, teachers and staff that makes up your child’s school

Participation is an essential social skill – the ability to join in can make the difference between success and failure in work and in play, and it is a skill that doesn’t come easily to everyone. The participation by parents in the P&C not only provides a clear signal to your children that you are interested and involved in their whole lives (and not just the bits lived at home). It also gives them an example of how to join in, which they can emulate later in their own lives.

Normo P&C has a good record of encouraging participation from the moment Year 7 parents first attend the School, which was an initiative that we ‘borrowed’ from Hornsby, and which it is vitally important to continue. We also provide great opportunities for parents to participate by attending Grounds Days and assisting at the School Canteen, and these have become a particular strength of this P&C.

Normo is exceptional in the quality and vigour of its Canteen, at a time when many schools have contracted out this service. Of course, it helps to have 700-odd hungry boys as customers, but the Canteen staff, and the Canteen Committee, approach this area of operation with a great enthusiasm and drive which I believe deserves our especial recognition and thanks. It has been a great pleasure this year to fund and facilitate the refurbishment of the Canteen, which was somewhat overdue, and I trust that this will now lead to a more regular program of asset maintenance and renewal, as well as professional cleaning at term end, to allow this great operation and the parents who staff it to have the working environment that they deserve. I would particularly like to thank Karen Campbell, who has run the Canteen Committee this year, following on from the work of Richard Simpson, as well as all the members of this important committee. I would also like to thank the School Prefects who provide great support behind the counter when it is really needed.

I believe that the "C" in P&C more properly stands for "Caring", because it is through the P&C's operations that we demonstrate to the students and staff that we care about our School, and about public education in general.

There is a difference between public education and much of the private education system. When we contacted one of our nearby private schools, we were told that they didn’t have a P&C, rather they had a Mother’s Group who baked cakes, etc. Other enquiries of similar institutions have generally portrayed a situation where the (substantial) fees are paid, and then the parents are not expected to take much of a role beyond attending sporting matches and functions as spectators and paying guests.
By comparison, in the public system the fees are almost non-existent, but the School really relies upon the involvement of the parents, especially through the P&C. This system gives a much greater opportunity for parents to be meaningfully involved in their children’s school life and education, and I believe that this is of real benefit for the parents, the School and the children.

We are able to demonstrate that we care about the School in very tangible ways, and this is undoubtedly reflected in the dedicated efforts made by Jeff and his staff. There is nothing so encouraging as being appreciated.

One group of the P&C that quietly goes about their business with little fanfare is the Functions Committee. Audrey Chin Quan and her helpers provide an essential service that helps the School through big and small occasions, by just working away quietly in the background to provide delicious sustenance when people are most in need of it. I would like to take this opportunity to the thank all of them for all or their efforts. They care, and we really appreciate the way they show it.

Another group that has been very important over the years has been the fund-raising committee. Fund-raising is often a lot of work, and can be fairly thankless, but the fund-raising efforts by this P&C have been exceptional over the time that I have been involved. I have to say that our most spectacular success has come through grants, rather than the traditional raffle or fete, and I suspect that this trend is likely to continue into the future. Mai Brett, Jean Tung, Pearl Mar, Michael Miller and Jasmine Madon have been especial contributors under the leadership of Robin Aitken, and I thank all of them for the funds they have procured, which has allowed the P&C to do great things.

The funds we have gathered have led to some major achievements in improving the School and its environment over the past few years. This has included numerous pieces of equipment such as Smartboards, as well contributing to internal refurbishments. One major work was the covered walkway in the main playground area which was put in as a joint School/P&C project in the last few years. Those of you who are relatively new at the School may not appreciate the major difference that this has made to the boys’ comfort, but it now provides both shade in sunny weather and dry shelter on rainy days.

Another major work was the reconstruction of the School Oval. Over the past year this has gone from a very ordinary bare paddock, which was on the borderline of actually being dangerous in dry conditions, to a lush, irrigated playing field with drainage and landscaping for seating. Again, this makes a major difference for our boys, and it would not have happened without the efforts of the P&C, and particularly the work that Robin Aitken did with The Principal and Acting Principal, Jeff Bruce and Glen Sawle. (I have already mentioned the Canteen refurbishment completed this year, which has set up this facility for the coming years).

You may not be aware that the P&C funds numerous small items that help the School to function in everyday operations, such as meeting the cost of venue hire for School sports carnivals, and paying referee’s costs for inter-school competitions. We also pay for counselling and student support services, as well as assisting students with costs when they are selected for State or National competitions.

One particularly exciting item that really demonstrates the difference that the P&C makes is funding the renewal of the texts and teaching materials for the English faculty. This was done four years ago, and most of the funding contribution would have come from parents whose boys have now left Normo, but all of your boys are still reaping the benefits. The performance of Normanhurst Boys in HSC English improved markedly after this renewal, and has continued to improve since.

A really clear sign of the difference that the P&C has made to Normo can be seen in the School grounds. Our P&C runs four Working Bees each year (1 per term), and through these we have planted around 5,000 plants in the grounds over the past six years. This has included the establishment of new garden beds, the removal of dangerous trees, and many hours of weeding. The beautiful gardens that you see at Normo get no maintenance from the school staff – they have enough work to do already with just mowing the lawns and maintaining the oval. Instead, all of the work is put in by parents, and by the boys, with funding from the parents who cannot actually attend a Grounds Day. I would like to particularly thank Michael Miller, Jasmine Madon, Paul McCabe, and of course our Principal, Jeff Bruce, all of who rarely miss a Grounds Day.
It has been a privilege to work with Jeff since he came to Normo. He came into a School that was successful, but fairly set in its ways. He has since worked to slowly change and improve the School, without losing any of its character, and I believe that this has been a great success so far (and long may it continue).

Over the past four years we have had a turnover in Deputy Principals – I would like to particularly thank (ex-Deputy) Frank Johnston for his help in the early years, and it is pleasing to see that his involvement in the School has continued after retirement. Glen Sawle arrived as a new Deputy last year, and was soon put into the hot seat as Acting Principal, and I want to particularly thank him for his help and assistance at a time when he had many other things demanding his attention. Asli Harman has filled the other Deputy position more recently and has further expanded the experience and expertise leading this wonderful school. Rod Miller, Graeme Pettit and Stuart Randall all filled in as Deputies, and all provided much appreciated assistance to the P&C.

I want to thank the School staff, both teaching and administration. I know first-hand how much they care for our boys and for their welfare and development. I know that they will tell us that they “are just doing their jobs”, but they do their jobs with both passion, and compassion, and this is a wonderful thing. It demands and deserves both our recognition and thanks.

I would also like to thank the boys – following Jeff’s initiative they are included in both P&C meetings and Grounds Days, and their presence greatly enriches both of these occasions.

And so finally, I would like to thank the parents of Normanhurst Boys High School. I would like to particularly thank Noel Christie-David, Pauline Zhao and Jasmine Madon who attend most P&C meetings and quietly contribute, and our Secretary, Michael Miller, our Treasurer, Sade Kalasabail and the ‘all-round fixer’, Helmut Hiebl. These wonderful people have not only kept the P&C running, but they have also put us on to the Web (at last), and given me absolute confidence that the P&C will continue to grow and prosper in coming years.

I intend to continue my involvement in Normo Grounds Days for a little while yet, so I will undoubtedly see a number of you again. My involvement in Normo (and Hornsby) P&Cs has been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I recommend to you that you also try to get involved through the P&C. We understand that not everyone has a lot of spare time, but if you give a bit of the time that you can spare, you will find that the rewards and personal satisfaction are well worthwhile. I know that the P&C is in good hands, and with your help it will continue to prosper and support our great School.

Thank you all once again, from Robin and myself, for a wonderful experience.


**Vice President’s Report:**

<No report>

**Treasurer’s Report:**

In Treasurer’s absence, the Secretary reported the account balances of the latest received report from the Treasurer.

**Commonwealth Bank**
Account 06 2291 10014089. Balance: $21,767.39 CR

**ING Direct**
Business Optimiser No: 18089026. Balance: $203,916.20 CR

**Motion 2012-AGM-A** to accept the reported account balances.
Principal’s Report
Principal Jeff Bruce.

Thank you to the outgoing P&C Executive for the wonderful support that they have given to the school. Thank you to Sade for his work managing the P&C finances and to Mike for his work as Secretary. Important roles and I appreciate the time and effort that you have both put into the tasks.

Particular thanks to Jonathon who has made an outstanding contribution to the school since taking over the Presidency of the P&C in 2010. Under his leadership, the P&C has taken a positive new direction. In many ways given it a new face – friendly and accessible. Work on the grounds has been amazing. Transformation of the school site.

Thank you to the P&C who have supported us by catering for the special functions, to all the parents who have volunteered for the canteen and who have turned out on the working bees.

We have been very appreciative of the financial support that the P&C has provided to the school in order to carry out an array of programs and activities that enhance the learning experience of all of our students.

We are very lucky at Normanhurst to have such wonderfully supportive parents and on behalf of my staff and myself I offer to all of you our sincere thanks.

Grounds Report
Jonathan Sanders

There have been four grounds days since last AGM. New beds have been established. One happening to highlight – we had one an attendance of around seventy volunteers on one grounds day! Some of our Y12 boys are now assisting at grounds days, which is really wonderful. The garden around the front gate is now almost weed free; a good self sustaining garden. We have around $1200 dollars of plants to be planted; some big holes required! It is the intention to keep up the use of professionals for ground maintenance where required.

Fundraising Report:
A great effort with the entertainment books. Thanks to all for various fund raising activities over the year.

Functions Report:
Audrey Chin Quan

There have been quite a few functions throughout the year. The next two scheduled are for the Year 7 orientation and the Year 10 completion. The help from parents has been much appreciated.

Canteen Report:
Karen Campbell

Renovation has been the main focus this year, after quite a few years without upgrading. Now most of the appliances are new and bigger, the walls have been painted and a few bench tops have been changed to suit the new gear and for more functional use of the canteen. The air conditioning is yet to be replaced - a quote has been accepted and it is due to be installed soon.

We also have 2 new staff members - Deepthi Nanayakkara our treasurer and Keralie Groom our new canteen supervisor. The previous treasurer Annette Phillips and previous supervisor Fiona Fulton resigned due to work/family commitments. Jo Jennis has remained steady as our canteen manager and has had a very busy time. Her position is now senior to the supervisor position with the acceptance of extra duties and responsibilities, and a pay rate above award. In effect the supervisor position dropped to the award rate.

Thank you to our loyal volunteers and this includes the prefects who help serve at the counter on busy days. We expect to lose about 10 parents of graduated year 12 students and we will do our usual recruitment drive at the upcoming Year 7 2013 orientation.
Election of the new Executive

President
Nominee: Michael Miller
Nominated By: Jonathan Sanders
Seconded by: Karen Campbell
No opposition - Michael Miller elected 2013 President

Vice President
Nominee:
Nominated By:
Seconded by:
No nomination - Position Open for 2013

Treasurer
Nominee: Sade Kalasabail
Nominated By: Jonathan Sanders
Seconded by: Helmut Hiebl
No opposition – Sade Kalasabail elected 2013 Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer
Nominee:
Nominated By:
Seconded by:
No nomination - Position Open for 2013

Secretary
Nominee: Helmut Hiebl
Nominated By: Jonathan Sanders
Seconded by: Michael Miller
No opposition – Helmut Hiebl elected 2013 Secretary

Assistant Secretary
Nominee:
Nominated By:
Seconded by:
No nomination - Position Open for 2013

District P&C Representative
Nominee:
Nominated By:
Seconded by:
No nomination - Position Open for 2013

Functions Coordinator
Nominees: Audrey Chin Quan
Nominated By: Pearl Mar
Seconded by: Pauline Zhao
No opposition - elected 2013 Functions Coordinator

Grounds Coordinator
Nominees: Jonathan Sanders
Nominated By: Michael Miller
Seconded by: Helmut Hiebl
No opposition - elected 2013 Grounds Coordinator.
Canteen Convenor
Nominees: Convenor – Karen Campbell
Nominated By: Jonathan Sanders
Seconded by: Helmut Hiebl
No opposition - elected 2013 Canteen Committee Convenor

Year List Coordinators
Nominee:
Nominated By:
Seconded by:
No nomination - Position Open for 2013

Fundraising Committee
Nominees: Felicity McDonnell
Nominated By: Jonathan Sanders
Seconded by: Michael Miller
No opposition - elected 2013 Fundraising Committee (as member researching grants; not convenor)

Committee Members
Nominees: Pauline Zhao, Noel Christie-David & Felicity McDonnell (Fund Raising/Grants)
Nominated by: Jonathan Sanders
Seconded by: Helmut Hiebl
No opposition - elected 2013 Year Committee Members.

Principal thanked current Committee for their efforts this year and welcomed new Committee elects for 2013

Meeting Closed
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