



PFA President's Report 2021

As we close off a year that has been different in all aspects of our lives, it is with great pleasure I present my 2021 report and indeed my final report as a school parent. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside and form relationships with this very special Kilvington community. Kilvington PFA requires no membership, no special club, all parents are respectfully welcome to enjoy the school journey, in the way they can, as a family, as a community. PFA exists to support this.

The calendar of events we so enthusiastically planned did not eventuate in the usual way, again for a second year. Cancellations of major events (Fair/Trivia Night) and a switch to online for Father's Day, meetings and gatherings etc, kept us on our toes and mindful of offering opportunities, but not overwhelming exhausted families. I congratulate and thank you for the role you played in community, and for any events we were able to run in person and online.

And it's not just events, it's the support and conversation, the kindness and generosity, empathy and encouragement. These are the things that you contributed this year beyond all else. We didn't always know who needed what, but between CSRs, our services, school and thoughtful individuals we covered a great deal. Thank you for your energy and empathy.

PFA Executive

The support from executive has been excellent again this year. As we have needed to make decisions they offered their wisdom and insight to their cohorts.

Carrie, thank you for loving my games, always being at the end of the phone and particularly this year for your willingness to deliver food, contribute to hampers and support whichever area of community required.

Wendy, thank you for your thoughtful comments and support in JS where it's harder for me to access. Your support across community in a wide range of interests, has made my role enjoyable. I have very much enjoyed working with you across your roles. Whilst we don't have a constitutional requirement to have a JS and SS VP, I do rely on your experiences and insight to properly integrate all our cohorts and families.

Josh, I wish you and your family all the best in your new adventures. I have very much appreciated your support, timeliness and humour at meetings. I love your family philosophy of how you go about sharing roles and thank you for taking an executive role.

Treasury requires time and precision, runs across most of our events and requires not only a trustworthy but calm and logical approach. Julie, thank goodness for you, your problem-solving skills, dependability and good humour. I also enjoy your candid approach and I have relied on you again this year for your insight.

Class Social Representatives (CSRs)

Without a doubt, the CSR role these past two years has been formidable. In the first year, CSRs tried every possible platform to keep cohorts connected, communicating and positive with a series of hit and misses. This year, we have been stretched, and they have been phenomenal. I cannot thank each and every one of you enough. Brilliant communication, flexibility across social media, and online platforms and patience... so much patience. Welcoming new families has certainly not been as easy, and I thank you there again.

Many of you work full time, and in the business of your work and family adjustments, you also covered off on your cohort and incredibly, found time to support individuals and small groups. Your support of one another in sharing emails, information and ideas, makes me very happy. You are such a positive and important function of our community and the backbone of PFA.

Kilvington Cares – Meal Program

The past couple of years for Kilvington Cares has needed to be flexible and morphed to meet the extraordinary circumstances faced by community. The roster group has grown, and support extended to hampers, care packages and special treats. This service meets the needs of recipients and also provides a very meaningful volunteer contribution for people at home.

This year, several students participated in the program and they hope to make meaningful contributions to this service when restrictions allow. Congratulations Christina for being awarded the Judy Allen Award, such well-deserved recognition of going well and truly over and beyond the role you took on. And congratulations for your many years of service to Kilvington as a volunteer and the broader community.

Secondhand Uniform Shop

Fundraising this year has been primarily achieved through SHUS. Thank you SHUS team! SHUS is an important service provided to families to recycle, and for students to wear good quality uniform. Thank you Briohny and your team of volunteers for your flexibility in trying to run SHUS this year. Next year, SHUS will look at the space in which to operate and consider options around operational times and how the books will be managed. We can expect good service and good quality under Briohny's leadership as we look to get back to usual operation. Thank you Briohny for growing SHUS into a quality operation and service, for offering volunteers a meaningful space, and for all those hours behind the scenes.

Entertainment Books

Nadia, well done running this service for us during the past couple of years. It runs in the background and we very much appreciate your administration and management of it. We might see a flurry of activity around this next year as we start to get out and about again.

Craft Group

In an effort to encourage connection for people at home and to produce pieces for a Fair, the craft group was organised by Eleri, Nadine and Mel. A great example of collaboration where each found their place in the coordination, communication and running of this new initiative. I am enormously grateful to you for offering this space and look forward to the what emerges next year.

Welcome and Inclusion

Ada, capably supported by Ying and members of our Chinese speaking community, the role you perform for us is very significant. For families to connect to and access community, they need to see the value and understand the culture we encourage - everything from attending events, connecting with community, and managing cultural differences with astuteness and care. Thank you for your support and development of us as a whole community, and for your ability to remove barriers.

Mother's/Father's Day Events

The cupboards are well stocked for 2022 Father's Day Stall - big plus there. Thank you Wendy and your purchase team.

This year, the Father's Day celebration went online and was a really fun event. The Dads and kids had a great time and thanks to our generous community many prizes could be delivered to winners. Mother's Day Breakfast was held offsite to reduce complication and although not quite as cosy as onsite, I am very pleased we were able to run it and welcome staff, Gill and Jon and new Board Chair, Gail Bergmann.

The gift stall was capably managed on the day by Alisa and was a huge success for students and parent helpers.

Hospitality

Hospitality opportunities were far fewer this year, and I am grateful to Carrie for her assistance, and baking in those we managed - Welcome Back Picnic, preparation for Productions and the Fair, Board Meetings and birthdays, and Senior School Athletics. It's a lovely role bring people together around food, and she has quite the talent for it.

PFA would usually work closely with Anita, and although we have seen less of you this year, thank you for the set up and catering for events.

Year 7 Events

We were able to squeeze in a couple of events for the current Year 7 and Year 7, 2022, cohorts. The Family Park gatherings are very successful and useful tools to welcome families, begin connection, and encourage people to find a space. Our PFA is very well supported by senior school parents who see value in their involvement and how it helps adolescent years.

Recognising we needed to take all opportunities we ran a very successful sold-out Trivia Night early in the year for Year 7 families, supported by student leaders. Opportunities at Prep and Year 7 are worthwhile and run by PFA members outside of these cohorts in conjunction with CSRs.

A team from the current Year 7 group designed a flyer for new Year 7 families to help them navigate the first few weeks of school and the new language. Thank you Alisa for instigating this.

Farewell to Year 12 Parents

As we farewell our Year 12 students, we also farewell parents who have been engaged with PFA throughout their students schooling. Thank you to Melissa Patocs, Christina Welsford, Maggie Pascoe and Louise Broadbent for your service to community, and sharing your experiences and caring for others.

Volunteer Recognition – Glen Eira CC Volunteer Awards

I congratulate Mikhaela, Andi and Carrie for being nominated for their school volunteering efforts, and who were awarded at a ceremony luckily held in person at the Glen Eira Town Hall. PFA also provided GE Council with a series of interviews of our volunteers to support their Recognition Program. Thank you Andi, Marnie and Melissa.

Marketing and Development

It is with this team we have the most interaction and we are very lucky to have a dedicated Community Relations Officer, and the team, to work with, support and guide us.

In August, we farewelled Deb Duce and thanked her for her wonderful support and energy in all things PFA. It's hard to think of PFA and not include Deb in every image. Thanks Deb.

Recently, we have welcomed Bianca and she is a wonderful addition to the team with a strong background in events and a lovely manner. Bianca, having worked with you this term, I know the community is excellent hands.

Thank you also to Devina, who meticulously collates all the publications inviting PFA contribution, and to Caroline for her work with our website pages/links and social media.

Cam, you have been a wonderful leader and always made yourself available to support and encourage us. I thank you for your tolerance and flexibility, and particularly our conversations. PFA has strengthened under your guidance and support from your team.

KGS Staff

Although this year has given much less opportunity, I thank the Maintenance team - Pete, Frank, Bernie and Gary, for their support in our events and planning. I have very much enjoyed working with them and they are a great support to our endeavours. Thank you for everything you do and always with good humour.

Likewise, our non-teaching staff are enormously supportive with events, compliance and planning. In Anita's case, her space, and, in Kathy's, meal deliveries and check-ins. Thank you all for stories I'll not forget, be it about dishracks, finance or general advice.

Interactions with supporting teaching staff have been fewer this year, but still there were planning sessions for the Fair with students, charity and event baking. Parents are a great resource for staff to utilise and are positive about opportunities to assist students.

Thank you to all staff for a huge year of commitment, and we were very sad not being able to run our usual morning teas/lunches and treat days to remind you how grateful we are.

Students

Student volunteering this year was also reduced, and we were grateful when leaders were available for Year 7 events, Fair planning and food care. Student leaders are great resources for us to gauge where we might be able to support community and encourage a whole community approach. Student feedback is that they value in these experiences.

Luckily, with eased restrictions, we were able to support School at information sessions at the start of the year, and I am grateful for the opportunity to welcome families and encourage their engagement in School.

Several videos were made during Lockdowns to support our Year 12s and recognise the enormous effort made by all staff and leadership. Thanks for your input as we tried to work out how best to support the significant changes in school life.

Principal Charlton

I congratulate Jon on his retirement and know he's left nothing in the tank in leading us these past years.

I am enormously grateful for having the opportunity to be part of a community that embraces partnership in the development and strength of community. My ethos of PFA is about supporting school/community and that care is taken not to create instances of discomfort or division, or in any way distract from school function, always trying to consider the bigger picture.

I am sure Jon you had your moments wondering what on earth... and I thank you for your tolerance when my heart ruled. It had not been my experience to welcome a Principal to each PFA meeting, and gatherings, and I have to say, Jon, it's really powerful to have you attend and include parents so comfortably in community. Your calm, thoughtful manner permeates all we do. I thank you for your guidance, encouragement, support and opportunity. I think what I'll miss most are your presentations, your calm, reassuring manner and your considered, thoughtful strength. And your smile.

Gill has been a wonderful source of support and warmth to our parent community. We delight in seeing her and as she attends almost every event, she brings a strong sense of family. In your support, you have offered friendship and encouragement. Thank you Gill. I wish you both a wonderful year ahead as you start a new journey. Thank you for your impact on us all.

Final Words

I am the most grateful for what we have experienced and achieved together each year. Individuals and teams who have quietly gone about growing and making our community what it is today. Thank you for offering your time, energy and good humour. I am grateful for the key services PFA offer in SHUS, Food Care and CSRs, and the events large and small we run throughout the year to connect and enhance our community. And especially the individuals who support us all with their positivity, sharing and welcome. We are a community of 'we' and set a fine example for students as they grow through 'I'.

I thank you for the friendships. I thank you for your support. Thank you for your trust.

I wish you all a good break, and a fun, rewarding 2022. Enjoy each and every opportunity.

Kirsten Brooks