

Community Events Team

Annual Report, 2019

*2019 Committee Members: Stacey Roberts, Tanya Pittard
(assisted greatly by Emily Myer, Liz O'Neill, Tamsin Downes, Tash Colangelo)*

With enormous thanks to the community for their contributions to the events of 2019 - which felt like a very big and very long year! - I begin this report. Everybody's enthusiasm and willingness to lend a hand time and time again has been very much valued.

We began 2019 with only two committee members to oversee events, which was daunting to say the least. Huge thanks to the outgoing Chair of 2018, Tanya Pittard, who stayed on to help me, the incoming Chair, navigate this incredible responsibility. At the beginning, our lack of ability to encourage and retain volunteers was a great concern. The reduced team with which we started the year was in part a result of volunteer burnout in preceding years, and it was something we grappled with as the months progressed.

Nevertheless, we persisted, and I'm proud of our team and the hardworking folks who gave so much along the way - namely Emily Myer, Liz O'Neill, Tamsin Downes, and Tash Colangelo, upon whom we could always count to ensure the success of our events.

2019 saw a few changes to our usual event line up - the End of Term Barbecues were organised and run by Sprout, we had no bigger Term 4 event (last year's Movie Night), there was the addition of Co-Motion and Art Attak, and much discussion was had around a policy for community members interested in hosting events.

Events in 2019

International Food Night

The International Food Night is the first event on the calendar that brings the BNWPS families together. It is a crowd favourite as everyone mingles over dinner with a culturally-important dish they've brought to share. It was a lovely relaxed night, with music and good weather contributing to the congenial feel. Numbers were down on previous years, but as usual the food wasn't!

6 x Plant and Produce Markets

Emily Myer took over as Coordinator of the Plant and Produce Markets from Term 2 and was instrumental in their runaway success. It was by far one of the most consistent fundraisers and contributed a great deal to our final total. We thank Emily for taking on this role so enthusiastically and professionally.

Plant and Produce fundraising total: \$8322

4 x End of Term Barbecues

We unfortunately were unable to find an End of Term Barbecue Coordinator to replace the incredible Carli Grey, and were greatly relieved when Kris Bidenko from Sprout offered to run the barbecue through that facility. From 2020 onwards, Sprout has taken responsibility for the End of Term Barbecues, and the resulting funds raised will be allocated to Sprout accordingly. It no longer comes under the jurisdiction of CET.

Barbecues fundraising total: \$2931

1 x Election Barbecue

The election barbecue unfortunately fell on the same day as our Trivia Night, which meant those of us who would normally be running it were busy with the night's setup. Our incredible community stepped in as they are so good at doing, and the election barbecue was a rousing success. The sausages, felafel and extraordinary array of baked treats kept the voters very happy throughout the day.

Election barbecue fundraising total: \$3299

Trivia Night

The dedicated 2018 Trivia Night team reformed to bring us a Glam Rock-themed evening of festivities in term 2. So many hours went into this event, so much love and care and dedication, and while we battled for attendance with both the election *and* Eurovision, we still managed an impressive turnout and a hell of a lot of fun.

Special thanks go to: Tas Game, Lucy Beaumont, Tamsin West, Matt Adey, and Tash Colangelo and Dan Sheehan for their tireless efforts leading up to and on the night.

Trivia Night fundraising total: \$6175

Winter Magic Market

Our biggest event of the year both in terms of community spirit and fundraising efforts was, as always, an incredible effort from our school staff and families. It's the one time of the year where everybody pulls together to create a wonderful night of fun and festivity for us and our surrounding suburbs. Unfortunately our event suffered greatly from absolutely despicable weather, with torrential rain and gale-force winds keeping many attendees at home.

Our thanks as always to Tanya Pittard, who once again tirelessly coordinated this vital event.

Winter Magic Market fundraising total: \$39,514

The Bar at Co-Motion

While the very first Co-Motion bush dance for BNWPS will go down in history for various reasons, it was a great deal of fun for a whole lot of people! Both of these instances appeared to be represented at the bar, where they were doing a roaring trade.

Co-Motion fundraising total: \$1497

Refreshments at the Grade 6 Graduation

CET was responsible for canapés, snacks and bar drinks at the Grade 6 Graduation, which was set up for optional donations toward costs. It was a lovely evening and a wonderful send-off for our senior class.

The Bar at Art Attak

The BNWPS end of year arts festival was a resounding success, and very well attended. CET was responsible for sourcing and running the bar during the evening, with various wines and beer on offer, as well as merchandise.

Art Attak fundraising total: \$840

CET meetings

Given the small numbers interested in joining CET at the beginning of 2019, it was decided to hold the meetings either after drop off or before pick up during the day, in the hopes it would be easier for people to attend.

There were fluctuating attendance numbers throughout the year, so not terribly consistent. We would have loved a larger representation of the parent and carer body to ensure we were holding events that were inclusive and exciting, but we did what we could. It has been hugely gratifying to see the incredible support that 2020 has brought with it, and the enthusiasm of the current members. There is no doubt they'll move mountains, especially with community support during the Covid-19 difficulties. I leave CET in their very capable hands, and am excited to see what they do, led by Co-Chairs Emily and Liz.

Financials

We were unable to provide concrete financial information to Council and the wider school community in 2019 about total funds raised, due to the issues faced by the finance department throughout that year. The Winter Magic Market total in particular took some time to ascertain, with confusion around expenditure impacting on the finance department's ability to calculate a final profit amount.

Early in 2020 it was announced we had raised \$64,041 across our community events, which represents a fantastic effort from the BNWPS students, staff and families in such a trying year. This amount is indeed a dip from preceding years, which could be accounted for by a number of things, including inclement weather at the Winter Magic Market, (our largest fundraiser), fewer volunteers, lower Trivia Night attendance, and the absence of a Term 4 event.

In conclusion

It would be no exaggeration to say CET absolutely cannot function without volunteers, either for an hour or a year. It is because of them we can continue to enrich our community with fun events and bump up our school coffers with the money raised. Our deep gratitude goes to every single person who took time out to contribute to the success of the Brunswick North West events, which are absolutely vital for our school's success. Here's to an incredible 2020!