

Community Annual General Meeting - Thursday 23 November 2017

Friends of Salvado President Report

Good evening everyone. What an amazing year we have had. A year of many firsts for Friends of Salvado, lots of fundraising and most importantly lots of community involvement.

Friends of Salvado is affiliated with the Parents and Friends Federation of Western Australia. The first job of the Executive Committee this year was to become familiar with our constitution and role expectations. In preparations for this, I attended an induction at PFFWA to learn how the Executive Committee functions and how to make Friends of Salvado as positive and productive as possible. This information was then relayed to the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer in order to create a strong foundation on which we will gradually build FOS.

The Executive Committee was involved in the Principals review this year. I attended a Principal Review Process meeting at the CEO to learn about what was expected of the Executive Committee and what our role was in the review. The Executive Committee then met and conducted our written part of the review. In term three we were then interviewed by CEO members to formally discuss the review.

In term two I was fortunate enough to attend a presentation by Dr Debbie Pushor – a prominent specialist in parent engagement in schools. The most important message from this presentation, which I brought back to FOS, was that parent engagement in your child's education greatly increases their success at school. That is partly why FOS exists.

FOS also exist to fundraise money to help the school purchase important resources for our children. Our major community events this year, some fundraising and some friend-raising, included a welcome back to school sundowner, quiz night, school disco, book fair and end of year sundowner.

Term one began with the welcome back to school Sundowner. The weather was balmy and our children enjoyed the bouncy castle, which was purchased by Friends of Salvado last year. The parents and carers had a chance to relax on the school's beautiful lawns and reconnect after the holidays.

Term two saw the beginning of what I'm sure will become a Salvado tradition – the Quiz Night. FOS decided to purchase wine glasses and table cloths for the event, which could be used for future activities. The evening was impeccably organised and everyone had a fantastic time. There was so much laughter and joy that evening and a real sense of community. The quiz night raised \$8,752.

The Student Disco was also in term two. It was so lovely to see our children enjoying themselves and dancing with their friends. Once again, our covered assembly area was filled with excitement and happiness. The event raised \$528.

The Book Fair was the next significant event on the FOS calendar. In term three our covered assembly area was transformed into a rainforest with a cascading waterfall and our very own cassowary! \$4842.09 was raised which went directly to purchasing books for our children.

In term four we celebrated the end of a wonderful year with a family sundowner which included a free sausage sizzle for everyone and bouncy castles for our children. Once again, our community came together on the school's beautiful greens to relax and reminisce on the year that was.

Throughout the year FOS organised a multitude of smaller fundraisers including several raffles, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, Subway lunches, Entertainment Books, school banking, school cash back opportunities and Konga Kids.

Three car park raffles, two uniform raffles and an Easter raffle were held this year and collectively raised \$1180.80. The Christmas raffle is still under way and will be drawn at the Christmas concert. Don't forget to buy your tickets! The Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls together raised \$750. Subway lunches brought in \$525.50. School Banking accrued \$618. The Entertainment Books raised \$358.00. Konga kids is currently still running until week 8.

FOS also received a cheque for \$10,000.00 from Barry Urban, the member for the Darling Range Australian Labour Party.

So, lots of fundraising happening. Now, what have we been doing with the money? \$10,000.00 of what we have raised this year, as well as the \$10,000.00 from the state government, has been allocated to the new playground for the year 1-3's. Another \$2500.00 was also donated to the school for the immediate purchase of much needed play equipment for the Years 1-3's. Almost \$400.00 was allocated to cover the cost of the mud kitchens. The money also went towards covering as much of the costs as possible for our community Sundowners. FOS also provided a First Aid evening for parents and carers.

It's not until you write it all down that you truly realise how active, vibrant and supportive our community is. Thank you to all the committee members and volunteers who have supported Friends of Salvado in so many different ways. You are creative, reliable and committed and have been incredibly generous with your time, talents and resources. We have achieved an amazing amount together in such a short time.

Thank you to the staff for your support. You are a dedicated group of educators. We appreciate your attendance at our events. You create a welcoming and caring environment for our children as well as parents and carers, which greatly contributes to the development of our community. Thank you to Santino for continually stressing the importance of parent and carer involvement and engagement in our school and helping FOS establish a strong foundation for our growing community.

Finally, a huge thank you to the FOS Executive Committee – Vice President, Shadia, Secretary, Nicole and Treasurer, Nicolette. A lot of preparation goes on behind the scenes to ensure that the committee runs smoothly and productively. Thank you for your dedication, hard work and energy.

This year has been a wonderful very rewarding for me personally. I feel honoured to be a part of a committee with such a strong focus on supporting our children and nurturing our growing community. It is a team effort. Everyone's contribution is important and has made an immense impact on our achievements this year.

Looking to the future, preparation for 2018 is already under way. FOS has decided to hold another Quiz Night, we have booked a Bunnings sausage sizzle stall for Father's Day weekend and we will holding an evening with parenting guru Maggie Dent. So much to look forward to with FOS. Bring on 2018!

Rebecca Furfaro
Friends of Salvado President