Another great start to the year in 2012 with the P&F cocktail party supported by the entire school community. New for this year were P&F social gatherings each term, to help encourage unity and inclusion within the college in a relaxed, off campus environment. The association recognises its role to provide, but to do this, we must fundraise.

Our Festival of Art committee were again instrumental in the on-going success of our first fundraising event of the year. Countless hours went into staging this event, so many of which went unnoticed. A huge effort from so few people, and thanks especially to Susan Douglas who coordinated our event this year, bringing it all together.

Our online survey after the 2011 Spring Fair provided valuable feedback for us; a great way to communicate! Many meetings and a great deal of hard work, perseverance, and cooperation culminated in another hugely successful event. Lesley Bland now steps away from the role of Coordinator after several years, and we are indebted to her passion, enthusiasm and ‘get the job done’ attitude. This event and the Festival of Art succeed on so many levels and are both dates on the community calendar. To see the college community come together, roll up their sleeves and pitch in to help becomes evident during P&F events like these. It is reassuring to witness, and to see the college showcased in such a spectacular fashion makes all the hard work worthwhile. I cannot thank every single person that has been involved in supporting these events, there are literally hundreds. Rest assured though, that your efforts have been rewarded, resulting in the improvement of our children’s lives at All Saints’ College.

This year, 15% of our disbursements benefited the junior school, 15% the senior school, and 70% the whole school. Our books for boys program finished, and we have committed funds to the school library for a further three years. We funded the implementation of the Fast for Word program (a series of cognitive programs on computer), installed external lighting for our chapel and new carpet in the Bickerdike centre. We also funded an additional defibrillator for the college, assisted the junior school with their pirate ship, and helped improve conditions for staff in the development office. We are also supporting the purchase of multiple interactive white boards, sporting equipment for the junior school, and a new computer for the science labs. We also funded an additional defibrillator for the college, assisted the junior school with their pirate ship, and helped improve conditions for staff in the development office. We are also supporting the purchase of multiple interactive white boards, sporting equipment for the junior school, and a new computer for the science labs. I thank the college for sharing the cost of our new hanging system in the Bickerdike centre, used to display artwork during our festival of art. I am thankful that we are able to keep annual subscriptions capped at $20 next year, thanks mainly to very good management by the Executive.

The P&F knows there are real challenges to face when raising children in a modern society, and we realise the need to support each other, and not just our children. To help achieve this, we completed and distributed our Drug and Alcohol resource book for parents earlier this year, as well as funding Grahame Hyman’s seminar in November for parents on ‘Raising Teenagers’. We constantly seek ways of bettering the lives of everyone at All Saints’ College.

The on-going support we have received from staff has been greatly appreciated, particularly the commitment of those attending our roving member’s meetings. These meetings have not only informed us about what’s going on, but have afforded us the rare opportunity to glimpse into the daily lives of our children, and experience the teaching environment and welcoming hospitality of the staff who teach them. It has been very reassuring to realise the calibre of those whom we entrust our children’s face to face education. Thank you also to the office and maintenance staff. In particular, a special mention for Bob Poole and Cherylene Anderson. You were all instrumental for our success in different ways. Thank you Fr. Paul. You have been a special friend to us; the pastoral care you have given our children has been a blessing. I wish both you and Jenny well in your future ‘off campus’. You will be missed.

Several members of the Executive are stepping down this year, including myself as President and Gavin Douglas as Treasurer after completing our three year terms. Also leaving are Kristina Sotter, Susan Douglas, and Catherine Garment. A special thank you to Margaret Gaal and Kate Rogers, whose children have now completed their Year 12 studies. I cannot thank all these members enough for their selfless support and effort ‘above and beyond’ for the P&F. You have all set a fine example inspiring others, and without you, our success would not have been what it was.

My time as P&F President has been very rewarding and I thank you for the opportunity of being able to make my small contribution. Thank you to every person who has supported me over the past three years. I wish for the ongoing success of this essential group of willing and committed people, instrumental in the betterment of all members of the All Saints’ family. Don’t be reluctant to take the initial step forward to volunteer; offering that little extra to the P&F will improve the facilities for your child’s education. I am certainly glad I did.