

## MARIST SCHOOL MT ALBERT

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TE WAIRUA O MARIA  
THE SPIRIT OF MARY

### MARIST SCHOOL AGM – CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT FOR 2023

The purpose of the Marist School PTFA is threefold:

1. To assist in building a strong community spirit;
2. To fundraise to assist with school projects; and
3. To support the Parish's pastoral care programme;

#### 1. BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The PTFA continued from the post-Covid gains made in 2022 with good support, particularly from parents of newer students to the school. The PTFA hosted a number of activities focussed on building the broader Marist school community. By either fully funding or significantly subsidising these activities, we are able to provide opportunities for our families to come together. The following community activities were held in 2023:

- **Community Night:** The PTFA provided hospitality in the form of drinks (albeit not quite enough!) and nibbles for families who attended the Community Night at the start of the year. We also sought to entice more families to agree to assist us with our activities, and we did have some new faces agree to join us for 2023!
- **Shrove Tuesday pancakes:** The PTFA again sponsored the celebration of Shrove Tuesday with our school community, ably assisted by parent cooking volunteers! The children enjoyed being able to mark the last day before lent with delicious pancakes.
- **Mothers' Day Breakfast:** The PTFA hosted a new event for 2023, celebrating Mothers' Day with a before school breakfast in the hall. Helpers swarmed to help with cooking a pancake breakfast for Mums, grandmothers and fellow students. The children were also able to complete an art canvas for their mother. It was great to see new faces and to be able to welcome Mums who can't always make activities during school or after school hours!
- **School Disco:** Another fabulous disco was organised by Johanna Smith and Catriona Kelly in November 2023, held at the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall. Johanna and Catriona have ably organised this activity for the last several years, and again arranged a fun and exciting evening for our Tamariki. Johanna and Catriona have now handed the baton for other Mums to lead this event.
- **Marist Movies:** This regular community event took place slightly later this year, on 19 November 2023. The PTFA supplied pizza for the children and the Hub representatives, led by Michelle Plant, co-ordinated an afternoon which allowed parents to mingle while the children enjoyed movies.

- **Teacher gifts:** The Hub representatives again led the organisation of end of year teacher gifts on behalf of those families who wished to contribute funds to a group gift. Teachers, learning assistants and administrative staff each received gifts which included a bottle of bubbles, a hamper and a Westfield Gift Card. This activity continues to be popular with families, who appreciate being able to thank the school staff for their hard work and care in a meaningful way, but without the associated admin and stress! Thanks to Michelle Plant and the Hub reps who planned, purchased and delivered the gifts to staff.

## 2. FUNDRAISING

The PTFA raised approximately **\$37,000** from a variety of fundraisers:

- **A night at the Oscars:** On 2 September 2023 the PTFA hosted a quiz night at Marist College with an Oscars theme. Natasha Dmello, Albina Muthiah and Chris Bowden again worked very hard to secure donations to be used for the silent and live auctions held throughout the night. This small team of three reached out to over 160 clubs and businesses to seek support. They picked up the prizes and vouchers, prepared the auction booklet, arranged food and drink supplies, decorations, set up and cleaned up the venue. The school community were again very generous in the donation of incredible auction items. There were 50 items auctioned throughout the night, including 11 live auctions. There were also numerous door prizes, spot and costume prizes. We were fortunate to again have Marion Tolich as our auctioneer and quizmaster. Quiz questions were kindly donated by Fiona Murray and the Stanley family through Believe it or Not Quizes and the format of fast-paced quiz rounds, with breaks for drinks, auctions and door prizes was popular. Pizzas were provided for each table, and there was a communal grazing table. This was a very successful night raising approximately **\$24,235** in total. Many thanks to the organising committee, and to generous sponsors and bidders, and to those from our broader school community who assisted with the set up and pack down.
- **Sausage Sizzles:** Sausage sizzles were held throughout the year, with the continued kind sponsorship of Lisa Courtenay of Barfoot & Thompson. This year we raised approximately **\$8,556** from sausage sizzles (though based on numbers ordered, it is quite likely that this figure is overstated because funds were comingled with other funds raised, and the anticipated fundraising from this activity is probably closer to \$7,000). Natasha Cutting very kindly took over the co-ordination of the sausage sizzles and ensured we had the numbers and the many, many loaves of bread needed to feed our Marist children! Laura L'Hopital and Gabby Collins ably took over duties as head chefs, with many parents who volunteered as helpers for the sausage sizzle. The PTFA also ran an additional sausage sizzle at the end of year school picnic, and Charlotte Tait led the sale of vouchers in the lead up to the event to ensure a more streamlined process on the night.
- **Golf Day:** This activity was led by Adrian Wade, who was assisted by Peter Wilkening (although his son has been gone from the school for a couple of years!). The day took place on 3 March 2023. We were unable to secure enough players to take the entire course, but did agree with the club to reduce the numbers, and therefore the cost. We also secured sponsors for some of the holes and some prizes. Many thanks to Natahsa Cutting and Mrs Phillips, who volunteered on the day. The Golf Day raised about **\$887**. While all fundraising is of value to our community, the amount of work involved in the arrangements for the day, the difficulty getting people within our school community to volunteer, and also the fact that we cannot fill the course in order to maximise fundraising, suggests that this is a fundraising activity which should be monitored, and another format may be needed in order to attract sufficient support from the school community. The 2024 golf day is to be run jointly with Marist College, and it is suggested that the outcome from this joint day be considered with a view to whether this event should continue.
- **Raffle:** Bridget Quirke again stepped up to arrange the school raffle, with the assistance of Kate Lawton.

The Raffle was held in term 4 this year to coincide with Christmas. The raffle has been a reliable fundraiser for a number of years and in 2023 raised over **\$3,000**. Principal sponsors were Farro, Auckland Zoo and Elizabeth Michael. We thank Bridget and Kate for continuing to lead this activity.

### **3. SUPPORTING THE PARISH'S PASTORAL CARE PROGRAMME**

This year the PTFA was again able to support the Parish through the Marist Meals programme. Our Graden to Table super-hero, John, who along with year 6 students prepared meals each week for our community!

Our school community have also continued to support the St Mary's parish foodbank, and our school community has been incredibly responsive when called upon to support.

### **APPLICATION OF FUNDS**

The PTFA commenced 2023 with assets of just over \$98,000. The focus of fundraising activities for this year has again been the upgrade of the school hall. The funds raised for this project were transferred to the school for payment in earlier 2024 as the hall renovations have been complete and we have all enjoyed seeing this beautifully refreshed space blessed last week! The outgoing funds used for this project will be reflected in the 2024 accounts.

A number of smaller projects continued to be funded through the course of the year:

- a. New entrant prayer books;
- b. New entrant house t-shirts;
- c. Marist meals containers;
- d. School disco (subsidised);
- e. Year 6 leavers t-shirts; and
- f. Year 6 Big Day Out graduation celebration and party.

The closing bank balance at the end of 2023 (including funds held on term deposit) was about \$127,000.

Thanks to Carolynn Phillips and all the Marist team for supporting and encouraging the work of the PTFA, in particular our Marist school admin team of Denise, Beth and Carla who have provided significant support throughout the year. We could not do it without their support!

Thanks also to the entire 2023 PTFA Committee who stepped up to get our fundraising and community activities going – we couldn't have made such a wonderful contribution to our Marist school community without your assistance! Thanks also to our outgoing secretary, Maree Quinn, who has certainly improved and streamlined our secretarial process and kept us on point with actions and follow ups!

**Melissa Bell**  
**PTFA Chair for 2023**

March 2024