Minutes
BRIGIDINE RANDWICK PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
Wednesday 11th May 2011 (Room DC5)

Opening
The meeting opened at 7.05pm with a prayer by the President.

Attendance
Rebecca Cocks (President); Susan Glassick (Secretary); Kate Edmondson (Principal); Antoinette McGahan (Deputy Principal); Allison Roberts (Class Representatives Co-ordinator); Kim Dobra (Yr 7); Anne Brophy (Yr 9); Catherine Molihan (Yr 8); Eilish O’Meara; Christine Murphy (Yr 11); Elizabeth Cummings (Yr 10).

Apologies
Cathy Goodieson (Fund raising coordinator); Sue Suchy (Vice President)

Minutes
The last meeting was confirmed as the AGM held October 26th 2010. These minutes were confirmed and adopted.

Correspondence
An evening of discussion with Dr Dan White, Executive Director of Sydney CEO concerning parenting expectations and schooling expectations will take place on Tuesday 24 May 7 pm to 9 pm. Parents will be emailed tomorrow about this night.

ACTION – Ms Edmondson

Presidents Report
Meet and Greet
Approximately 110-120 people attended the meet and greet evening in Term 1. The evening was a great success and positively showcased the music and food provided by the students. Additionally the evening raised $460.

It was noted that Marcellin and some other schools also held similar activities on the same evening, and it was felt it would be preferable if this could be avoided next year.

The 2012 calendar is to be consulted with view to having the Meet and Greet earlier in term 1 2012 (possibly the first Friday of the first full week of term).

ACTION – Rebecca Cocks and Ms McGahan

Executive positions
The three remaining vacant executive positions were formally accepted as follows:
TREASURER – Caroline Kane
Recycled clothing
The second hand clothing event was reported to be beneficial to many parents and also raised over $100. Another second hand sale is planned for 19th September 2011. Lynne Hamilton has volunteered to do the sale on the 19th September.

Preloved uniform donations are being sought. The potential for a donation collection bin similar to the current bin will be explored. How to donate preloved uniform items will be detailed in the Newsletter.

ACTION – Rebecca (reminder in P&F newsletter and discuss “drop off box” with Ms McGahan)

Treasurer’s Report
The President provided the funds information in the absence of the treasurer. The current P & F balance is $4000 and this money will be used to support upcoming activities to benefit the school.

Principal’s Report
Student activities
Year 11 examinations are almost over, and the online bookings for the Year 12 Parent/Teacher interviews is underway. This system for booking parent teacher interviews was efficient and effective when last used in December.

Interviews
Enrolment Interviews for Year 7 2012 are underway. There are about one hundred more applicants than places. Catholic parents need to keep the school informed if they are not going to take up an offer as soon as possible if the school is to avoid the implications of commencing 2012 with a lower number of students than anticipated.

TAS night
TAS night will be held on Friday 17th June to showcase the creativity of the teachers and girls in the TAS subjects taught through the school.

Founders Day
Founders Day on June 23rd 2011 will involve Mass followed by a day of fun activities including a sausage sizzle. Girls may change into comfortable clothing after Mass. To support the activities Friday 13th May is to be “Black Friday”; Girls may wear black clothing and donate a gold coin.

Uniforms
The summer dress, blouse and winter kilts have been redesigned to increase the girls’ comfort. The new items will be available in 2012 and there is a transition period of four years where both old and new items will be acceptable uniform.
The summer dress will be a princess line with less pleating to negotiate with the iron and the hip button detail will be removed. The fabric will remain the same.

The winter kilts will also remain the same fabric, however it will sit on the hips with a wide band from which the pleats will fall. The effect will be the same as the kilt but removing the discomfort of the kilt for the girls which rides too high on the waist.

The cut of the tuck in shirt will change to be worn loosely over the skirt, with the hem of the shirt in alignment with the base of the dropped waist detail. It was felt that a distinction between junior and senior girls’ shirts may be desirable. Further thought will be given to either adding a green trim to the collar of the junior shirts or keeping the junior shirts plain and embellishing the senior shirt.

Optional trousers and shorts are still under review. Ms Edmondson is worried about bring in optional pieces for the uniform when a significant number of girls do not wear the correct uniform now.

The fabric of the sports top was reported to be difficult to keep clean, it was agreed that a change in the fabric be discussed with Ann as there have been advances in sports fabrics, many now being very lightweight and breathable.

ACTION – Ms Edmondson

Computers
The CEO has provided a directive that computers be provided for girls commencing Year 7 in 2012. The Government funding for personal computers has been concluded and this means that the girls commencing Yr 8 and Yr 9 in 2012 will not be provided computers.

The impact of not having laptops and options were discussed at length and included the following points:
- Yr 8 and 9 2012 will not have their own computer;
- the school has a good number of desk top computers and girls of Yr 8 and 9 in 2012 can be given priority;
- examinations are hand written so it is also important to develop hand-writing skills;
- Despite promises by parents and students, girls do not always bring the laptops to school and are at home being used for music and photos;
- cost (approx $500 increase in school fees for Yr 7 2012) which includes technical support, insurances, and software;
- girls can only bring the school leased computer to school and parents are not able to buy a computer very cheaply somewhere for the student use. Having one kind of computer means that the Brigidine technician can be very familiar with it and can fix the girls computers quickly;
- slow speed of the internet as many users access the limited of the bandwidth;
- sibling inequity if one has a computer and the other does not; and
- wireless throughout the school means that it is very easy for girls to be on social networks throughout the school day.
Ms Edmondson will write to parents of Yr 8 and 9 2012 to consult with them about the implications of these two year Cohorts have no personal computer. It was agreed that this is a very challenging problem and wider consultation would be helpful.

**ACTION** – Ms Edmondson

**General Business**

**TAS night Friday 17th May**
At the last TAS night complimentary tea and coffee were provided, many parents voiced they preferred to pay or make a donation for their hot drinks. This year, as it is a Friday evening the provision of champagne, wine & beer for sale pre show was agreed. It was agreed for the 2012 TAS evening that there would be tea, coffee, champagne, wine & beer sold prior to the show

**ACTION** – Rebecca Cocks to inform Cathy Goodieson.
Cathy Goodieson - coordinator of evening

**Music night 28th June**
The P&F is to offer its support to the Music night as deemed suitable by the coordinators.

**ACTION** – Ms Edmondson (conversation with music organizers) and Anne Brophy (recruit and coordinate)

**Founder’s day 23rd June**
Ms McGahan asked for Parent volunteers to provide a sausage sizzle; an estimated 850 sausages will need to be cooked and served. It is a given that parents are invited to attend the Founders day Mass which will be held in the morning.

**ACTIONS** – Kim Dobra (recruit and coordinate)

**Year 10 Dance**
The Year 10 dance will be going ahead now as there are 4 volunteer members to the Parent Committee. Ms Edmondson said that this is the barest minimum needed to complete all the tasks that the dance requires.

**ACTION** – Allison Roberts (coordinate)

**Work Experience**
Work Experience for Year 10 is not offered at BCR. Work experience has not been offered for many years since the great workload caused by child protection checks for employers and the cost of insurance. The kind of work that the girls provided is easily available to girls who turn 15. So many girls had part time jobs that the girls did not then want to do a similar job for work experience nor was it seen to be the best use of teacher time to organize the placements that the girls did not respect.
Work experience is organized for Brigidine students undertaking VET course as it is a compulsory component of their course.

**Meeting closure**
Meeting closed 8.40pm