Dear Radford families

I am writing to you now as the recently elected President of the Parents and Friends Association (P&F). I am honoured to be assuming this role and, at the outset, wish to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of my predecessor, Ms Hannah Baudert, and other departing members of the Management Committee. The Association is in a strong financial position and there is a lot of good will for the work of the P&F.

Please find following a copy of the President’s Report provided by Hannah to the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 26 February 2015. It provides a short summary of some of the P&F’s major achievements in 2014.

As the new President, I am determined to build on the solid foundation I have inherited and to work with you to ensure that the P&F is meeting its Constitutional purpose and objective of promoting the interests, policies and purpose of the College by effectively:

- serving as the formal channel of communications and consultation between the College and the parents;
- fostering cooperation amongst the College community;
- assisting in the provision of books, teaching aids and facilities for education, recreation, sport and welfare;
- promoting liaison, consultation and cooperation with other bodies to advance the knowledge, understanding and improvement of education at the College; and
- fostering interest, understanding and participation in the development of educational philosophy, principles and practice.

Immediately, I am aware of the need to raise awareness of the role of the P&F amongst the College community – hence this letter. I intend that the P&F should regularly print, publish and disseminate information about its activities and I would welcome the active participation and engagement of as many parents, friends and guardians as possible. I look forward to working with you, and on your behalf, over the next year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the P&F Management Committee for 2015:

- President John Shevlin [Child in Year 12]
- Vice President Grant Anderson [Child in Year 11]
- Secretary Andrew Herring [Children in Kindergarten, Years 4 and 5]
- Treasurer Kim Harrison [Child in Year 3]
- Assistant Treasurer Scott Hickey [Children in Years 1, 3 and 5]
- Publicity Officer Patricia Edge [Child in Year 9]
- Ordinary Member Dean O’Brien [Child in Year 2]
- Ordinary Member Charuni Weerasooriya [Children in Years 1 and 5]
The Management Committee brings a diversity of views and experience across the College community and, individually, we have children in both the Junior and Secondary Schools. I hope therefore that you will not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Committee should you have any questions or suggestions, wish to raise any matters of interest or concern, or if you wish to play a more active role in the operations of the P&F.

The Management Committee meets the second Thursday of each month (except in July and October when we meet on the third Thursday). We meet in the Board Room, in the Accounts building, at 7.00pm and I hope that meetings will normally go for about 90 minutes. The intention is that each meeting will have a particular focus and details of the meeting schedule will be published on the P&F page on the College website. Please refer regularly to this webpage to keep abreast of P&F activities.

Beyond our normal focus on community building and fund raising, this year the P&F will be closely involved in the development of the next Radford College Strategic Plan and will also be reviewing and updating our Constitution to ensure that it properly supports the effective operation of the Association. This is an early priority and a Special General Meeting will be convened in Term 2 to consider the revised Constitution. Please watch out for further information about this meeting.

I would also remind you of the upcoming ArtShow@Radford which will be held in the TB Millar Hall on the weekend of 30-31 May 2015, with an official opening on Friday night. This is the major P&F community building and fund raising event in Semester I and everyone is cordially invited to attend this important and much anticipated artistic event.

Finally, I reiterate my great pleasure in being elected to serve as the P&F President in 2015. It is an honour to serve in this role and I look forward to working with you, and on your behalf, to help ensure that Radford College continues to provide a great educational experience for our children and to foster the spirit of community.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0435 968 936 or, via email, at jpmshevin@gmail.com

Yours sincerely

John Shevlin
President
Radford College Parents and Friends Association

5 March 2015
Report to 2015 P&F Annual General Meeting
by Hannah Baudert, 2014 President

The 2014 year got off to a sluggish start with some key roles for the committee remaining open for the first couple of meetings. By working the network (thanks Scott) we had a full complement for our third meeting.

That we increasingly have difficulty finding volunteers for the P&F is, in part, symptomatic of the changing nature of school parent communities where parents are often heavily committed to other activities outside of school. Many P&Fs are suffering similar problems but not all - which suggests there are models where P&Fs can thrive and this thought drove debate within the committee about how to be more relevant.

The focus for the rest of the year then became about being relevant by financially supporting a range of activities and letting the community know what we were doing. The committee voted to support the wonderful Dirrum Dirrum Conference event where students, parents and teachers are inspired by the spirit of contribution. The very active Friends of Radford Football group received help for a project targeted at building skills and capacity.

At the P&F’s request, the School Board proposed a range of year-based projects from which the committee selected a subset based on perceived need and the desire to focus on the whole student cohort. These were ranged from furniture in the ELC, the Year 7/8 Cave and outdoor furniture in the upper High School. It was wonderful to hear back from these groups about the impact the sponsorship had. Despite the significant financial outlays associated with this support, the P&F finances remain healthy and capable of supporting further activities in 2015.

Effort was also put into advertising what the P&F was doing via the newsletter and other channels however it remains a challenge to achieve sufficient cut through in our information-loaded parent community.

The Art Show and the Fete are irreplaceable school events which bring the community together twice a year to enjoy all things creative, digestive and fun. Their importance in building and growing friendships and memories must not be discounted by their role as major fundraisers for the P&F. To all the parents, students and college staff involved we give our deep thanks.

As some of you may be aware, we nearly did not have a Fete in 2014 - the volunteer issue again - and special thanks go to Celia Lindsay for stepping into the breach this year and coordinating the event, along with a small and dedicated sub-committee of P&F members - Dean, Stu, Leeann and Scott.

In many respects, this departure from the norm proved a double blessing as it forced the committee to reconsider and finally adopt the concept of a part-time paid community event organiser for 2015 onwards.
Here I want to pause and highlight that one of great strengths of the Radford P&F is the strong and active relationship it has with the college staff and board. Our Principal Fiona Godfrey then proposed that this role could be fulfilled by a College staff member with financial support from the P&F. This creates a capacity that is sustainable and properly supported from an HR perspective. This decision creates further potential for future years for other events such as a Walkathon and more targeted parent events to welcome new parents to the school etc.

As I conclude my report I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to the P&F committee members. You are all busy parents at this great school. You have given up peace and quiet and/or time with your family to come out to the school Board Room and discuss how to guide us forward. I know this year has presented challenges for everyone and it takes patience and understanding to work together in a volunteer situation. I am grateful to have had the chance to work with you Anthony, Celia, Dean, Charuni, Sitesh, John, Russell, Trish, Adrienne, Kim, Leeann, Scott and Stu. I step down from my role as President with some frustration and sadness that I was not able to continue on because of work commitments and I look forward to supporting the 2015 committee as much as I can.