P&C Executive
I would like to start by thanking the executive members of the P&C, most of whom were new to their roles in 2009. We hit the ground running and I greatly appreciate everyone’s support and team work over the year. Thanks to Anne Vermeesch, Max Pontin, Sue Russell, Mike Ticher, Jeff Hockey and Fran Bailey. On behalf of the executive, I would also like to thank Judy Kelly for her tremendous support and commitment to working in partnership with parents.

P&C representatives
Parents were represented at many forums and events in 2009 including the school council, the college advisory council, a P&C forum with the local member and Minister for Education, P&C regional advisory committee, selective schools placement committee, school finance committee, orientation days and recruitment panels for new principal and English teacher. Thank you to those involved including Narelle Wardman and Stephanie Searle.

P&C meetings
The P&C held 11 meetings in 2009. We would like to thank everyone who was able to come along and contribute to the discussions as well as those who followed our progress via the minutes and the parent email list. Your support and interest is invaluable.

P&C social events
The P&C hosted a number of social events throughout the year. We welcomed new parents and fondly farewelled our previous principal Andrea Connell. We enthusiastically welcomed our new principal Judy Kelly.

P&C fundraising
The Trivia Night committee put together a great night and raised over $6,000. Many parents said how much they enjoyed the evening. Thank you to Mike Ticher, Eileen Leather, Madeleine Bowman, Natalie Sheard, Kate Teevan, Anne Vermeesch, Sue Russell, Claire Pickard, Fran Bailey, Sue Glover and Claire Brown. It was a great team effort and many parents and staff helped on the evening, as well as donated prizes, silent auction items and cakes. Thank you also to our many sponsors who supported our efforts by donating goods and services to the silent auction.

Thank you also to Bronwyn Jones and Kay Proos for coordinating the selling of candles at the “Carols by Candlelight” in Pioneer Park, which raised over $1,000.

The P&C continued to collect family donations. Our thanks to the office staff for their support.

Funds raised from these activities were used to provide additional resources, facilities and equipment for students at the school. This included “Gotcha” awards ($660), which recognised student achievement and contributions to the school, as well as permanent display mechanisms to showcase students’ work in visual arts and other curriculum areas ($4,000).
**Uniform Shop**
The parent-run uniform shop enables students to access high quality uniforms at not-for profit prices. It also provides a valuable service in selling second hand uniforms and supporting students in need. Our sincere thanks to Laura Hart for her dedication in coordinating the uniform shop activities over the past few years and to the volunteers who assist her each week.

**Lostock**
Lostock continued to be a fantastic asset for use by students and families across the College. Lostock was a major focus of discussion in the latter half of 2009. A major maintenance project, involving the preparation and painting of the exterior of the old school house, was required and all three campuses agreed to jointly fund this project. We would like to thank Balmain and Blackwattle Bay P&Cs and schools for their financial contribution to this project and their interest and support for the future of Lostock.

We would also like to thank John Hart for his immeasurable contribution to managing and maintaining the property over the past 3 years. Without his efforts, many of our students and families would not have been able to enjoy a taste of country life.

Recommendations for the future management and support of the property, supported by the College Council and each of the campuses, included:
- Establishing a Lostock committee to manage the property when John “retires” from his current role early in 2010. Parents from Leichardt, Balmain and Blackwattle Bay campuses have volunteered to be part of the committee.
- Establishing a fund for future maintenance projects (such as repair or replacement of the school house roof) with a request to each campus for $500 per year for this purpose.

**Communication**
The P&C regularly contributed to Highlights, the school’s fortnightly newsletter. The P&C also maintained pages on the school website and managed a parent email list to distribute the P&C minutes and inform parents of P&C events and other relevant information.

**Advocacy**
2009 was an important year in advocating for a number of improvements to the school and its surrounds, including negotiations with council regarding (1) upgrading the school oval and community use outside school hours, (2) installation of a bus shelter and removal of graffiti from the wall at the bus bay on Balmain Road and (3) safety issues around the bus stop on Balmain Road near the pedestrian crossing.

On behalf of the P&C executive, I would again like to thank everyone for their many and varied contributions in 2009. We look forward to another positive and productive year in 2010.

Lisa Woodland
President P&C
Leichhardt Campus
Sydney Secondary College