

PARENTS & FRIENDS of Dio

I don't often introduce myself in these articles, though I will this time. My name is Robin Bell. I have three daughters who have been/are students at Dio and I have had the immense pleasure of serving as Treasurer and President of P&F for the past nine years. It is now time to pass the baton and so I am writing my final P&F article for *Dio Today*.

When parents join the P&F Committee, their first reaction is surprise, the second is curiosity, the third is engagement. Surprise comes with learning the sheer magnitude of what this association has achieved and continues to achieve over the years. Curiosity comes as one wonders... how? Engagement, of course, follows, as the committee is just that – engaging.

It is surprising to learn that over the course of the past nine years P&F has donated more than \$1 million to the school. These donations have gone towards large projects such as the Arts Centre, redeveloping the Junior School playground and food technology gardens, redesigning the cafeteria

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dining area and refitting the cafeteria kitchen. At the same time, donations have been made to smaller projects including the Buchanan Scholarship, gear for various Dio sports and refurbishing Whanau spaces, as well as to numerous external charities, including the SPCA, Police Dogs NZ, ATWC, and the City Mission – to name a few.

This giving back is one of the association's greatest achievements and how P&F manages this is no small feat. Funding has come through numerous sources, big and small. Large fundraising activities have included Dio house tours, the Dio

cookbooks, quiz nights and auctions. Smaller events include our annual Father/Daughter Breakfast and sale of the Dio charms. But our best-kept secret is the Dio Café.

This business, which we run within the school, has grown substantially over the years, with sales doubling over the past nine years. The thriving Dio Café has created a steady source of donations for P&F, as all net proceeds are donated back to the school or other organisations. Furthermore, the association has been able to build a solid base of investments whose earnings fund our commitment to the Buchanan Scholarship.



WELCOME PICNIC



FATHER/DAUGHTER BREAKFAST

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Of course, it's not all about the money, as a key focus of P&F is bringing our community together, and the opportunity to do so is incredibly rewarding. It starts with the annual Welcome Picnic and the Open Days. We love hosting these events to see the new and potential Dio families on

campus, meeting one another and experiencing Dio hospitality.

Our annual Father/Daughter Breakfast has been a sellout for as many years as I can remember. The photographs captured of dads and daughters show heart-warming moments that we love to see year in year out. And of course, wrapping up the year is our Cocktail Party. It's always a treat to offer parents a chance to catch up with friends new and old and share stories of the year gone by.

Not surprisingly, 2025 has started as another wonderful opportunity for P&F to engage through these events,

including our recent Father/Daughter Breakfast with speaker Alexis Pritchard, Olympic Boxer and Mindset and Empowerment Coach.

I look forward to watching the continued growth and success of the Parents & Friends' Association and express immense thanks to all committee members, past and present, for their time, effort and engagement with this incredible community. Thank you, Dio P&F, for the opportunity you have given me to serve and the friendships I have made over these past nine years.

Robin Bell, retiring President