Bishops College Prep and Pre-Prep Parents' Association
Annual General Meeting | 23 November 2026

2026 has been a productive, busy, demanding and exciting year for the Parents' Association (PA), one marked by change, new beginnings, meaningful achievements and, above all, a strong sense of community.

Restructuring the PA

Following the last AGM, the PA underwent a restructure, with three new members joining the committee in the portfolios of Treasurer, Secretary and Pre-Prep Communications. They joined the continuing Chair, Outreach and Prep Communications portfolios.

We also introduced a number of co-opted roles, ensuring that specific areas of responsibility – namely the Tuck Shop, Carnival and overall business practices – had dedicated parent representatives overseeing them.

This report draws together aspects of my four reports to Council throughout the year and provides an overview of what the PA has achieved for our boys, our parents and the wider community.

Mr Groom

The first term of the year saw Mr Groom take over the leadership of the school following Mr Brown's retirement. He was warmly embraced by the parent community, his warm and approachable demeanour was greatly appreciated, and his genuine love for the school was evident in everything he did. He led with passion and enthusiasm, and I think I speak for many parents when I express our gratitude for his contribution.

He will be sorely missed when he leaves us at the end of this year.

Welcoming Mr Lalla

At the beginning of the second term, we welcomed Mr Lalla to Bishops. This marked an important moment in the school's history as he took up the reins following the remarkable legacy established by Mr Brown during his, almost 2 decades at the helm.

The PA, in conjunction with the school, hosted a welcome event which was one of the best-attended parent events I have seen.

In his calm and considered manner, Mr Lalla has quickly won the respect and affection of the Bishops community, particularly the boys. For many of them, the highlight of their day is often a seemingly small moment when Mr Lalla stops to engage with them, shakes their hand and make them feel seen. These simple interactions speak volumes about the kind of headmaster he is.

The Carnival

After considerable upheaval around dates and planning, the Carnival finally took place on 10 October 2026. It was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year and remains the one occasion when the Prep and Pre-Prep come together as one school community.

The community spirit, commitment to our boys and genuine love for the school were tangible throughout the day. It was a tremendous success on all fronts.

There was considerable concern around ticket demand, which was unprecedented and quite unexpected based on the historical information available to us. We also considered information

obtained from other schools in the area and have still not come to a firm conclusion as to why our Carnival is the most popular by a long way

Fortunately, we were able to secure permission from the City Council to increase capacity to the maximum permitted for an event of this nature.

A few figures worth highlighting:

- The initial 1,500 tickets released, based on the 2024 Carnival capacity, sold out in under 12 hours.
- The City Council subsequently approved a further 500 tickets, which sold out in approximately 10 minutes.
- Games, rides and stalls operated using tokens, encouraging the boys to practise budgeting and handling transactions. Approximately 38,000 tokens were sold – again a number that far exceeding expectations

This year, the PA elected to take responsibility for the planning and execution of the Carnival rather than appointing the traditional Carnival committee of approximately 12 parents.

While this placed a considerable workload on the PA, it allowed us to streamline the process and operate very effectively. Communication between the PA, school and parents was direct and focused, enabling decisions to be made and implemented quickly and avoiding unnecessary complications.

It is important to remember that the Carnival is first and foremost about community – bringing our families and boys together and celebrating the school we are all part of. Fundraising is a welcome by-product, allowing us to contribute towards future school projects and outreach initiatives.

The bulk of the profit was generated through rides, games, stalls and ticket sales, with the net profit far exceeding expectations, at approximately **R240,000**.

The generosity of our parent community was an enormous contributing factor to this success. From substantial donations of furniture, equipment and drinks, to suppliers who generously reduced their prices and accommodated our additional requests, to parents who spent hours designing and building the magnificent games and treats and volunteering their time to run stalls – the collective effort was extraordinary.

The school is currently considering a number of projects towards which the funds raised will be allocated. These include class room refurbishments, specialised class room furniture and an AV system for Jagger Hall

A new-look Tuck Shop

Managing the Tuck Shop is a substantial undertaking. Historically, it operated outside the direct responsibility of the PA, managed by dedicated parents. Following an unexpected resignation, the PA took back full responsibility this year.

Under the exceptional leadership of our Treasurer, Claire Edwards, it has been a tremendous success.

We reorganised the layout to create more of a food-court atmosphere, with different vendors and a more welcoming space. Saturday rugby mornings have consequently developed a wonderful atmosphere, with families staying longer, connecting and enjoying the sense of community.

The Tuck Shop generated a substantial profit of approximately **R91,000** this year.

In addition, it supplies more than R3,000 worth of meals and refreshments each week, at cost, to Bishops and visiting staff, coaches and support staff.

Safety on the roads

The safety of our boys around the school, particularly during drop-off and collection times, remains an important concern for both the PA and the school.

We continue to remind parents of the importance of following the guidelines in place, respecting the drop-and-go principles and being mindful of our neighbouring residents. Ultimately, we all share responsibility for ensuring that our boys arrive at and leave school safely.

A number of practical initiatives were introduced this year:

- **Bicycle parking near Woodlands:** Following a suggestion from a parent, and with the immediate support of Mr Reeler, a bicycle rack was installed near Woodlands. This allows boys cycling through the College to secure their bicycles close to the main campus security and then walk the guarded route to the Prep, avoiding the need to cycle through the traffic.
- **High-visibility vests:** The PA provided high-visibility vests, which are kept at the bicycle shed, for boys cycling to and from school. The school would like to see wearing these become standard practice for all boys cycling to school, together with the use of helmets.
- **Drop-off awareness:** Awareness around the drop-off zones has improved, thanks in large part to the school staff who have championed this. We continually encourage parents to follow the recommended one-way traffic flow around the Prep and to treat designated areas as drop-and-go zones, allowing all boys the opportunity to disembark safely.

These are relatively simple measures, but they make a meaningful difference to the safety of our boys.

Blue Pages

Blue Pages continues to be a valuable source of income for the PA, although it requires considerable time and commitment from committee members.

This year, we produced two editions rather than the four published in previous years. This allowed us to manage the workload more effectively while continuing to provide parents and businesses with a platform to support the school community.

Outreach projects

Our outreach programme remains one of the most meaningful aspects of the PA's work.

Throughout the year, we continued to support initiatives :

- St Paul's Primary, Bo-Kaap
- Atwood Primary, Hanover Park
- VUSA Academy

Working alongside generous parents and supporters, the PA helps facilitate breakfast and sandwich programmes, stationery packs, Christmas gifts and other general support.

These initiatives help ensure that learners receive a wholesome meal and have the necessary school supplies to approach their school days with dignity and pride.

The generosity and willingness of our parent community to extend its support beyond our own school gates is something we should all be proud of.

Building community

This year, we focused on adding value to events and occasions that parents already attend, rather than filling an already busy school calendar with additional dates.

Saturday rugby mornings, particularly with the introduction of the new Tuck Shop layout, have become a natural gathering point for families.

The Mitre coffee offering, subsidised by the PA, has also provided parents with an opportunity to meet, connect and enjoy a coffee while supporting the school community.

Sometimes it is these smaller, informal opportunities that do the most to strengthen relationships and build a sense of belonging. We would love to have done more, but the Carnival took up much of our capacity.

Class Representatives

Class Representatives are a vital link between the school and the parent body.

In May, we held our first Class Representatives' coffee morning with Mr Lalla, Ms Bain, the PA and three representatives from each grade.

Creating an open channel of communication between the school, PA and class representatives has been an important step towards strengthening engagement across the Prep and Pre-Prep.

The benefits of this relationship were particularly evident during the planning and execution of the Carnival, where communication and collaboration were essential.

We hope this will continue to develop as an important part of how our school community works together.

Council

I have had the privilege of serving as an observer on Bishops Council throughout my time as Chair, as well as serving on the Nominations Committee.

It has been wonderful to be part of the changes taking place at Council level and to witness the appointment of new members, including the new Chair of Council, whom I have been fortunate enough to get to know through some very interesting conversations about the school and its future.

This has been a particularly dynamic year for Council, and for the school as a whole, with a number of challenges and important decisions along the way.

I left the final Council meeting of the year with a genuine sense of respect and optimism. I feel very confident that the school is in professional, competent and, above all, passionate hands.

I believe the future looks progressive, fair and well considered, with the interests of our boys firmly at the centre of every decision. That is ultimately what matters most.

Financial Standing

Bishops Prep PA Financial Summary

	Jan26-Oct26
Net Income	**399 526.13**
Blue Pages	49 188.58
Interest income	15 212.78
Tuckshop	95 124.77
Carnival	240 000.00
Expenses	**- 95 825.84**
Athwood Stationery	- 20 736.00
St Pauls feeding scheme	- 10 464.41
Small teacher gifts, pre-prep picnic, misc expenses	- 40 078.63
Bank charges	- 1 300.00
Bank service fee	- 1 103.80
Mr Lala welcome event	- 22 143.00
Net income after expenses	**303 700.29**
Bank balance - 31 October 2026	**735 754.32**
Savings account - Money Market acc	723 066.84
Current account	12 687.48
Bank Balance - 1 January 2026	**307 914.39**
Savings account - Money Market acc	307 854.06
Current account	60.33

Note 1: The Carnival profit is still an estimate. We await final costs for security, st
connectivity, diesel, electrical expenses. These have not yet been paid.

Note 2: Additional stationery purchases of R55,000 have been made for VUSA, At
and St Pauls in November 2026 not reflected in the above numbers

Looking ahead and words of thanks

Our AGM takes place on Monday, 23 November 2026, and it will mark the beginning of a new chapter for the PA.

Of the current committee, two members have completed their maximum terms, I will be moving on to the College next year, and two further members have decided not to stand for re-election due to other commitments. Our Treasurer is the only current member standing for re-election.

The Treasurer's role is particularly important in maintaining the financial structure, accountability and continuity of the PA. I would strongly encourage parents to support Claire's re-election, as retaining this experience and the systems she has put in place would be hugely beneficial to the incoming committee.

Our three co-opted members chosen not to continue in their respective portfolios early in the year and those responsibilities were absorbed into the PA.

We say an incredibly fond (and sad) farewell to Chris Groom, Sandi Clapperton and Zetta, who have become such an integral part of the fabric of the Prep. Their contribution to the school and the lives of our boys is something to be celebrated.

Next year will bring many firsts, as we continue to build on the traditions and values that are so deeply woven into the fabric of Bishops.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this community and to have worked alongside so many wonderful people. To the school executive and teachers: thank you for your openness, support and willingness to always engage and find solutions. Your passion for the school and, most importantly, for our boys is what I will remember.

To the parents who have been supportive, engaged and generous with their time and resources: thank you. Your commitment and the example we set for our boys is the best gift you can give them.

To the members of the PA, whose dedication, commitment and seemingly endless energy have carried us through what has been a very full year: thank you. The work is often unseen, the hours are many, and the contribution of each person matters.

And finally, to the boys themselves – they are, after all, the reason we do this.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Bishops College Prep and Pre-Prep Parents' Association. I leave with enormous affection for the school, great respect for the people who make it what it is, and confidence in the exciting chapter that lies ahead.

Warm regards,

Sally Duncan
Chair
Bishops College Prep and Pre-Prep Parents' Association