Well, another year of HPV events is over again! We participated in three events this year: Wonthaggi in March, Murray Bridge in September and Maryborough in November.

Wonthaggi saw three teams compete, The Fast, The Furious and The Feeble. The children's teams raced for 16 hours over two days while the Community team of parents and grandparents raced for 24 hours. The weather was not kind to us; torrential downpours, freezing winds and storms. We battened down the hatches though and competed for the two days. It was a baptism of fire for many new families and our youngest team ever.

Murray Bridge offers the only event in Australia where Primary aged children can race for 24 hours non-stop. We made the 10 hour journey, many of us in a self-drive bus, to camp on an oval with thousands of other mad HPV families. The carts had been re-built to be enclosed for this event and decorated with new names and decals. They were called Snap and Pop. We had a near disaster when the Community cart, POP, broke the crank bracket on their cart on Friday night during the practice session. We called in a few favours and a replacement part was flown over on the Saturday morning just in time for the race start at noon. There were not many happy faces on either adults or children when being woken in the middle of the night for their shifts but they all raced as hard as they could.

Maryborough is the culmination of a year's worth of training twice a week, out of school hours. Children are also responsible for building the bodies on the new carts and preparing for the Display and Presentations they must perform for judges. All this work was made much easier this year in our HPV shed, and I'm sure Mrs Clifford appreciated us not messing up her Art room for weeks at a time too. The children vote for the names on the carts, the design of the bodies and the decoration of the carts themselves. They are also involved in extensive Fundraising activities for the year to the value of approximately $10,000. This pays for event entries, spare parts, materials for cart construction, safety equipment and team T shirts.

Maryborough's event is the TRYATHLON. This involves a Display & Presentation to a panel of judges, a Design & Construction inquisition, and Obstacle course relay, a Sprint course relay and an 8 hour endurance event. The children all represented BUPS brilliantly and should be proud of their efforts. The weather was fine, hot and sunny! The Maryborough pool had a lot of visits during the down time from our kids.

This year for the first time we entered a new event, The Junkyard Challenge. Mrs Hutchinson travelled to Maryborough with four grade 5/6 students to build a bridge spanning 1.5m and able to hold a 3kg weight. They were provided with a variety of recycled materials and had 2 hours to create their bridge.
The HPV team would like to make a special mention of the support provided by Gary Thompson of G2 Electrical who very generously donated his time and materials to complete the electrical works to our shed to the value of $4,500 for free.

The final results were Snap- Open Class- 4th overall. Crackle- Primary Class- 6th Overall.

I would like to thank all the children, parents, siblings involved in the HPV program this year. It has been another wonderful experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment. I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr K and Mrs Mac for their support of the program in its 19th year.

Any Grade 5 or 6 children who are interested in being a part of this great program in 2013 need to attend the information session with a parent in the first weeks of Term 1 next year.

Karine McGill