

P&C President's Report AGM

15 March 2016

2015 was another successful year for the P&C. We raised a substantial amount of money and were able to complete a number of our initiatives ahead of schedule and without the aid of grants. This has largely been due to the P&C's strategic planning, which has given us clear direction, and also to the hard work of our parent body, the school staff and wider community. Major initiatives we have achieved include:

- Two stages of the Hall upgrades, including the extension of the stage, the addition of curtains, a backdrop screen, a new sound system, screens and projectors.
- The electronic signpost at the front of the school.
- Funds to the school to pay for the Wi-Fi upgrade

The P&C is proud to have obtained the grant which enabled Mrs Tina Mortenson and the school to erect the ANZAC Memorial outside Grayson. We thank her for her inspiration, hard work and dedication in completing the project.

A review of the P&C 2016-2017 Strategic Plan in 2016, so that it can be realigned with the school's new four year Strategic Plan, is highly recommended. This will ensure that our initiatives are targeted effectively and delivered on time. It will also increase the chance of securing any grants we apply for.

Last October we trialled a new fundraising event (Spring Starburst over Twilight Market), which saw the expansion of our markets to include fireworks, food and rides. Feedback from the event was very positive and it was suggested that this become a biannual event for our Winter Carnival 'off year'.

This year's major fundraiser is the Winter Carnival. It will be held on Sat 16 July. Our new Co-ordinator is Samantha Ford who is already proving to be a highly competent and organised person with a fresh and invigorating approach.

The decision to have set fundraising activities for the main P&C and for the Prep Subcommittee each year, or biannually has worked well. This allowed the P&C to focus resources and the parent body to plan their year accordingly.

Gill Legge our Tuckshop/Uniform Convenor resigned halfway through 2015 and it was seen as an opportunity by the P&C to review the Tuckshop and Uniform shop procedures and processes and to re-examine the Convenor's role. A panel was set up to employ an Acting Convenor while a working group would do the review. Karen Wilson was the successful applicant and is to be commended for her hard work. The timeline for the review to be completed and the employment of a permanent convenor was set for Term 4 but proved to be unrealistic.

Currently, the working group, comprised of Nerida Leal, Carly Mattea, Rebecca Mann, Desley Kay, Paul Kingston, and until this point, myself, has framed a new timetable and is working through the review.

The advertisement for the Permanent Position is scheduled for the end of this term (24 Mar) and will include the wider community in its scope. It will be advertised internally but also in the newspapers, Seek, through other schools, P&Cs Qld and the IPS network. Applications will close the Monday of Week 2 Term 2 (18 Apr) and interviews to be carried out the week of 9 May. The three month probation period for the successful permanent applicant will begin 8 June, with a three week hand over if required.

There have been changes to Smart Choices which will impact on the Tuckshop and will need to be addressed by the working group. Certain food and drinks, which have been green or amber are now classed as red and as such cannot be sold more than two days in the term. Items to be removed include all carbonated drinks, packet chips of any description and home-bake items liked buns with icing and muffins.

Last year saw the successful implementation of the P&C Facebook page. Mr Kingston arranged for someone from the Education Department to talk to P&C members about the importance of strict protocols surrounding the use of social media. Nerida Leal wrote a document incorporating this information which was endorsed by the School Council.

Our plan to implement a Parent Representative system in the P&C in 2015 was postponed while Q Parents was investigated. Q Parents was found to be a more effective way of reaching parents. The school applied for Q Parents and we have just been given the green light. This will be a focus for 2016.

The school has been working with Education Qld to build and operate a website that meets the requirements of ACSS but also fits the Education Qld remit. With this in mind, the P&C's much needed revamp of its pages has been put on hold until the 'dust settles'. It is recommended that this is pursued in 2016.

At the end of 2015, the school underwent a comprehensive review and attained ASAA Accreditation. The P&C would like to commend the school for this achievement. The P&C was part of the review. Congratulations to the P&C Executive and all our volunteers for their hard work, which contributed to the school's success. While the P&C received a favourable report, it was recommended that we ensure continuity by fully documenting our processes and procedures. As a starting point, the Executive has begun a checklist outlining what needs to be done each month to ensure the smooth running of the P&C. The process of documentation will need to be expanded and completed comprehensively in 2016.

The contract with the YMCA to provide after school care is due to expire soon. The P&C has been working closely with the school to through the process of securing a new building to cater for an increased demand for this service and examining the tenure for a provider.

This is my last report as P&C President. I am stepping down, as it is my daughter's last year at ACSS. I also believe that it is important to periodically revitalise the P&C by giving others an opportunity to step up and provide a new perspective. Fancifully, I like to think of it as opening a window in a stuffy room.

I would like to thank Mr Kingston and his Leadership team for their patience, guidance and expertise, the office staff and teaching staff (including aids) for their front line support and Mr Mair for always pulling a rabbit out of the hat when needed. A very special thanks to the P&C Executive, which has at times changed around me but their dedication and hard work have remained constant. Lastly, I would like to thank the parents and care givers who give their time selflessly to come to meetings, organise events and fundraisers, volunteer and support us financially so that we can deliver our initiatives. Everyone is working towards the ultimate goal of making ACSS an outstanding school for our children.

Thank you.

Kerri-Lee Halas