

Secretary's Report - March 2017

Welcome to the 2017 APS P&C Annual General Meeting. It has been a great year for the P&C, with a lot of commitment from the parent community in support of the kids and school. I would like to reflect back on some of our achievements and offer thanks to everyone who contributed over the 2016 year.

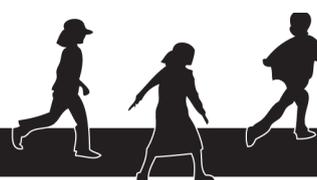
Last year we totalled 59 members, which is a very significant improvement from the 29 in 2015 and the 16 in 2014. Although support at P&C events from the school community is always strong, whether people have signed up to become members or not, I hope that this signals a growing interest in participating in and contributing to the planning of events and programs.

As a group, the P&C passed 37 motions that have directed funds to important projects and assisted the school and the school community in many ways. This year the P&C funded:

- * Learning partnership with Sydney University
- * Additional signage around the school to promote kids safety in parking areas
- * Improvements and repairs to the kitchen / garden program
- * Electronic signage for the school
- * New computers and furniture for the library
- * New electronic white boards and other learning resources
- * Additional air conditioning for the classrooms
- * Uniform lost property notification and tracking system
- * Bursaries for the music program
- * Awards day prizes
- * Torres Straight Islander flag pole
- * Sports rep uniforms

The P&C organised the amazing election day fete and laugh out loud events. These gatherings of the school community, along with regular cake stalls and other small events, are a wonderful way to raise funds and encourage cooperation and growth in the school community. Every one of the volunteers at these events should be very proud of the contribution they have made, and the way they have delivered, to the children and the school.

I have had my own small journey through P&C history over the last few months, working through approximately 90kg of archived P&C documents, dating back to 1981. This has freed up a lot of shelf space in the P&C storeroom, where we are often challenged for enough storage to maintain all of our materials. The results of reviewing, scanning and summarising these records of the last 36 years of P&C history will soon be on the web site. Although there is little of relevance to us today, the historical information is very interesting. The effort that previous P&C's went to in organising and fundraising was very clear to see, with meticulous documentation and many letters to local members and the department of education. Previous committee members include well known locals such as Jillian Wolfe (President 2010, 2011), Sara Howard (VP 2010), Deanna Rhule (VP 2010).



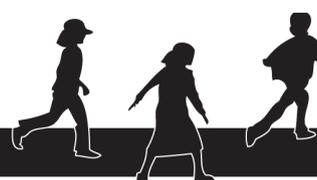
As I took this dive into the past, I was reminded of the previous secretary Graham Jones (who is still going strong - this is not a requiem), who set a very high standard around the P&C secretary role and whose lead I try hard to follow. I very much appreciate the guidance he gave me and that I could so easily take up from the great work he did around organising the essential processes and documents of the P&C.

Thank you for the opportunity to be on the executive and contribute to the kids and the school. I want to thank all of the other members of the executive and all of the members who regularly come to the monthly meetings. We've been blessed with a very strong president in Barry Cotter, and tireless efforts in organising and running events from Leah Thurecht, Hannah Richardson and Kylie Couper. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with all of these committed parents this year.

Regards,

Peter Bestel

Secretary, Annandale Public School P&C



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