

Chair's Annual Report, 2015

As another year rolls around, our committee has already been hard at work. Tonight we will reflect on the year that was. Kate & I wish to thank each committee member for the time they have given to the Onslow College PTA during the 2015 year. Whether you have attended meetings, helped rustle up volunteers, purchased supplies, spoken on our behalf, made up or sold raffles, kept the books, the minutes or lent a hand (or two) at the various events during the year, you are all hugely appreciated. We would like to add special thanks to Kirsty Hosie (our very able Secretary) and Lynda Murray (our Treasurer) for the hours they put into their roles. Without key post holders doing their jobs well, our team wouldn't work so efficiently.

At the end of 2015, we said farewell to Marina Stevenson & Judy Turner, two of our hardworking committee members. Marina served on the committee for an amazing 8 years and she held a number of positions during that time. Marina was an active committee member who readily lent her hand to any job that needed doing and her wonderful keeping of the books meant that the finances were left in good health on her departure. Judy served just over 3 years on our committee and was often first to volunteer her own time (and that of other family members!) at events. She "revamped" the way in which we communicated with our parent volunteers and we are very grateful to her for this.

We welcomed several new committee members through the year and look forward to working with them during 2016. Our willing helpers list also continued to grow and our thanks go to Helen Hughes for maintaining this group of people for the PTA. Our willing helpers list contains names of volunteers who are able to occasionally give their time to help at events. The committee are grateful to them for their ongoing support. As always our thanks go to a number of school staff members who support the PTA in a variety of ways.

- Sherie Pointon (Principal's PA), who attends to our emails and requests for help with patience.
- Nicole Harding, who provides financial support for Lynda and reimbursements when required.
- To Penny Kinsella, Janet Glenn and Warren Henderson – the wonderful Deputy Principals- we appreciate your input, support and encouragement. Graeme Thomas, the college caretaker, who answers our calls for assistance at events and Dale Taylor the BOT Rep who attends meeting when she can.
- Our thanks to Kathryn Levy (Teacher Rep) who attended committee meetings and was able to liaise with college staff on a number of occasions.
- Again a huge thank you goes to Peter Leggat. What a dedicated and hard working Principal Onslow College has. Peter, we enjoy receiving insights to life at the college, building updates and news of student success at our meetings. We also acknowledge and appreciate the many hours you give, over and above the regular school day.

PTA initiatives:

During 2015 we provided the light meal at the Year 9 Tea for incoming students and their families (approx 500 people) and know this is always a great way to showcase the parent/school partnership. In 2015 we ran a Parent Education Series with 3 separate speakers. Our first evening was with Constable Duncan Ashton (local Police Education Officer) around the topic – important laws relating to teenagers. The second evening was with Lynn Harris, who gave a humorous insight to positively parenting & empowering our teens. Nikki Roesnik from Victoria University then spoke to interested students and parents about student loans and how to get these working best for you. During the year we also responded to requests for help from the school library and sports office.

Supporting Acts:

During 2015 the PTA supported the school by providing refreshments and parent volunteers for the Powhiri at the start the school year, Junior & Senior Parent Conferences, Love Me Not Presentation Evening to Year 12 parents, College Open Evening, NCEA Information Evening, Sports Awards, Leavers Function and Celebration of Success Evening, where we were delighted to present Andie Moore with the PTA trophy for his Contribution to Community. We feel it is great to be able to show strong parent based support for school activities and often get positive comments from those attending.

Fundraising initiatives:

With the support of the Board of Trustees, the PTA introduced an annual voluntary parent donation. We asked parents to consider making a donation to the PTA, so we could then re-distribute it on their behalf to wider school initiatives. We were thrilled to receive \$3,799.50 and have already contributed this money (and more) towards the fitout of the Student Centre kitchenette. We are keen to spend more money during the 2016 year and encourage parents to donate money to the PTA when they are able.

Our raffle baskets continued to make a modest profit and our thanks goes to Erin Hunter for their beautiful presentation. They are attractive and always a pleasure to sell to parents at evening events.

We wish to thank everyone who played a part in the 2015 year and look forward to the year ahead.

Kate Koch & Karen Doogan