

# Chair's Annual Report, 2016 *(presented March 2017)*

Well here it is – AGM time already and again we have a chance to reflect on the year that was.

Our hardworking PTA committee has continued to support school events and more importantly has fulfilled the supportive parent role throughout the year. We are fortunate to have many committed members who willingly give their time where they can. Whether it be by holding a position on the committee, attending meetings, taking on leadership roles both temporary or ongoing, or attending events as an occasional helper – this parent collective is in good heart and well represented at Onslow College.

Aristotle may well have had the likes of our committee in mind when he said “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts” and we are truly fortunate to have people who step up and do what they need to do, to make things happen. No contribution goes unnoticed.

We appreciate: Jo, for keeping the library roster current and allowing the Librarians to have their well-deserved morning tea break. Lynda, for checks and balances of our finances and liaising with the school accounts team. Helen, for the hours of work that she puts into organising volunteers for ALL the events that the PTA is involved in at school. Helen does an amazing job of working out exactly who is needed for what and recruiting accordingly. Fiona, Rebecca & Sue for their enthusiasm & humour and for adding to the collective “parent voice” around the meeting table.

Huge thanks must go to Kirsty, our wonderful Secretary. Kirsty you do your job efficiently and without counting the cost of the many hours you give to your role!

During 2016 we said farewell to Erin Hunter who served on the committee for 4 years. We were grateful many times for the outstanding presentation of Erin's raffle baskets as they earned us many compliments and boosted our account. We were delighted to hear from Robyn Meynell, who took over this role and were grateful for the baskets she provided during her time on the committee.

We also gladly welcomed Dinah Paenga and Rebecca Morder to the committee and are grateful for their “parent voice”. We were pleased to host teacher reps or B.O.T attendees when they could make a meeting.

While not actually being committee members, we recognise and acknowledge the contributions to one off projects by Judi Harrison and Anna Bowron. It is wonderful to have these good people to share the organisational load through the year. Judi did an amazing job co-ordinating the Year 9 Tea and Anna has been largely responsible for arranging supply and installation of the new water fountains that now grace the college grounds. Big thanks to you both!

Kate & I also wish to acknowledge the support the PTA continues to receive from Graeme (College Caretaker), Darrin in the school canteen, the Office Staff & Accounts team and our wonderful deputies: Warren Henderson, Janet Glenn and Penny Kinsella. On top of everything else they do, they never fail to recognise the work of the PTA and we appreciate them for this.

Sherie Pointon deserves our thanks also for her patience with our email requests, responding to our calls for help, the website training given and all the general support involved along the way.

Peter – no PTA wine for you tonight! But please accept this as a small token of our thanks for your continued support. You are always visible, approachable and supportive at events and are also always ready to thank PTA members for their work. What a significant contribution you make to our college. We wish you well for the coming year.

## **PTA initiatives:**

Our largest event of the year continues to be catering for the Year 9 Tea where new students and their families are welcomed to the college. In response to feedback, we now offer a Gluten Free option to our usual range of goodies for this light evening meal. Nikki Roesink's Tertiary Costs presentation continues to be popular and we had a small but enthusiastic turn out for the Self Protection Seminar with instructors kindly provided by Kenpo Karate Academy.

## **Supporting roles:**

2016 was a busy year and if it was to be measured in numbers of hot & cold drinks served – our PTA helpers would all receive gold medals! Events include the Powhiri to mark the start of the school year, Parent conferences, Careers Evening , Open Evening, NCEA evening, the Love Me Not parent education evening, the Celebration of Success Awards and the Leavers Assembly.

We have provided volunteer helping hands at both the Sports Office Stocktake and the end of year Senior Clearance Day.

In May we were pleased to support Lee Mauger and provide food at the first Space & Science Fair to be held at Onslow College. Over 3000 people attended this day event and it was amazing to see scientists, engineers, students, parents and teachers being wowed by the attractions on offer around the college.

## **Income and Outgoings:**

Early in 2016 we were grateful to Sarah McNaughton, parent and co-author of Sweet Enough – for the opportunity to sell her lovely cookbook that promoted less sugar / more taste home baking! Sarah kindly donated \$15 to the PTA for every book sold. This venture boosted our account by \$1,700.15. Big thanks to Fiona for her work co-ordinating this venture for us.

The opportunity for families to support the PTA through online donations continued to be a popular way for parents to make a financial contribution. The \$2,827.00 raised in 2016 went partially towards the purchase of 2 microwaves for the Student Centre. It is hugely rewarding to hear that these microwaves get daily use by students. Donation money was also spent on installing flip-up seating in the maths block corridor and we know these are also well used by students. Finally, a group of Year 9 students from a planning and action group, approached the PTA for assistance to upgrade the current water fountains around the college. The PTA decided this would make a great school wide initiative and in collaboration with the B.O.T (Board of Trustees), helped fund 5 new fountains around the college grounds. These sturdy fountains look great and will most definitely benefit many students each day.

As well as the parent donations, a steady source of income continues to come from our raffle basket sales at various events held through the year. Last year \$1,548.22 was collected.

Other sources of income include the Space & Science Fair – where \$1,262.30 was raised from a sausage sizzle and home baking stall.

And finally - although I am not finishing with the committee just yet.... this is my last report as Co-Chair. I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone well for the year ahead and urge any parent considering joining the committee to do so. It has been a pleasure to co-lead this team of hardworking folk. I have enjoyed working with Kate / dividing the load and sharing many laughs with her along the way.

Regards

Karen Doogan & Kate Koch - 2017