

AGM
Presidents Report
6th February 2017

It is that time of the year again where we reflect on the past year, celebrate our achievements and acknowledge our supporters and our community as a whole. It has been my pleasure and honour to lead the P&C over the last 12 months. We certainly have had a very busy time amidst ups and downs that was 2016. Firstly I extend my many thanks to all who have contributed to the Executive Team during 2016. Many thanks to Meegan and Terra (executive officers in the first half of 2016), Emma (Treasurer), Dakota (Vice President) and Liz (Secretary). Also, many thanks to Sheryn who held the position of Fundraising Co-ordinator for most of the year.

Much effort has been made during 2016 to increase communication and partnership between the P&C, parents and staff at Mudgee Public School. It's important that everyone knows what is going on and feels part of the school community. This is especially crucial given the rapidly growing nature of our school, and these twin themes underpinned everything we did this year. The P&C would like to thank Mr Kerr and all the teaching and office staff for being so supportive of the P&C and our work.

A special thank you to all volunteers who stepped in mid year, those who supported them, ad hoc project teams and all the parents whom graciously offered their time and skills to help out at various events, classroom activities, sporting events and school excursions throughout the year. A big thank you must also be extended to Mr Webster who always appears to help us, sometimes from no-where, and whose help is always greatly appreciated.

2016 saw us start the year with a Kinder morning tea for new kindergarten parents and those new to town. 2015, the first year, got off to a slow start but the start of 2016 was a different story. With coffee, cake and tissues on offer a few 2015 kinder mums were there to chat with new 2016 kinder mums and others new to the school. It was a very successful giving those who stopped by a warm welcome and an immediate sense of school community. With greater promotion this morning tea has enormous potential to create a sense of care and belonging.

The school "welcome" BBQ and information night will be held in week two giving families the opportunity to understand what happens in the classroom and meet their child's teacher. This is an invaluable opportunity and for those who attend a positive experience and insight into what to expect for 2017. Thanks must go to Mr Kerr and staff for their time and effort in organising the evening.

2016 saw a regular group of parents attend our monthly meetings. In an effort to increase volunteer participation the P&C introduced Volunteer feedback forms on line. The system showed value and response rates more than doubled for 2016. We expect this to continue to grow with our philosophy to volunteer for "just one thing" and greater familiarity with the process. Further effort to increase attendance at P&C general meetings was made setting a new meeting time of 2pm. The last two meetings of 2016 were held at 2pm and we saw several new faces. Unfortunately no solution is perfect but efforts are being made to make the meetings more user friendly with the objective to increase participation and therefore bring more ideas and support to the table.

The introduction of our Facebook Page is proving effective in communicating and connecting with the school community. It is certainly an efficient means to

keep our school community as well informed as we can of P&C activities as well as the events, activities and achievements of Mudgee Public School and students. Thanks to Donna from our P&C and Jen O'Brien on staff at MPS for making many a post on Facebook to keep us up to date.

Dropbox continues to be an invaluable asset for the executive committee. Its ease of use and having information at your fingertips is invaluable. It also means records are being kept on line giving access at any time to processes for events in an attempt to eliminate having to keep reinventing the wheel.

Our Xero accounting software recording all transactions and a move to on line banking is proving a great move forward. It is cost effective, convenient and timely. Xero brings greater transparency, ease of use and the ability to track and report on the stored information.

Policies and processes continue to be established, reviewed and improved. All policies and procedures in place have been reviewed and approved for use in 2017. An annual audit was conducted and paperwork and records are in order.

Our school Canteen continues to provide a great menu and service for the school. Kim effortlessly works in our canteen alongside a number of volunteers to ensure our students and teachers have access to great, healthy and yummy food at the highest possible standard. Kim again achieved a 5 star rating on her Canteen audit. This ongoing high standard that we are able to experience is a reflection of Kim's commitment toward hygiene, good food, and understanding of students and the school community.

In 2015 feedback from the school community indicated they would like to reduce the number of items in the Canteen containing preservatives and to reduce the number of pre packaged processed foods. The P&C responded and 2016 saw the Canteen commence a move to implement a "cook from scratch" initiative. Exciting times... and the school community embraced it. Hamburgers, for example, were being ordered by the dozen. So positive was this initiative the Canteen made a profit for 2016.

Thanks must go to Kim's dedicated volunteers who help serve in the Canteen - Sharon, Kelly, Anthea, Simone Hurrell and Simone Hinton. A big step forward from the previous year where we struggled to find helpers on any given day. Further thanks must go to Sharon for providing a summer salad and winter soup menu for teaching staff on Tuesdays. This is well received and the food is always delicious. We cannot of course forget our Canteen helpers coming in on a regular basis to cook from scratch some of the menu items offered. A big thank you to Rachel, Amy and Sheryn and others who step in ad hoc in supporting this great initiative. More can be done in the New Year to develop this project and further support will be sought from volunteers to keep moving forward.

Our Uniform Shop is another great asset for our school. Thanks to Dakota who runs our Uniform shop and tirelessly sells new and used school uniforms. Dakota opened during the January holiday period for the first time with an Eftpos facility - and was rushed off her feet. Good stock taking methods are in place and further work is ongoing to establish sound record keeping procedures to ensure the effective running of the uniform shop. It is with interest we explore the option of having a paid employee in the Uniform Shop. If the Uniform Shop is to remain viable its trading times need ensure the school community has access to purchase. On line ordering and EFT payments are other ways we can try to increase sales. I am sure 2017 will see more happen around the Uniform Shop.

Thanks also to Dakota and other volunteers available to service our Breakfast Club. It is a great initiative for students but unfortunately volunteers were not available on a long term basis to keep this viable for the P&C to run. Thanks to Mr Kerr for creating a paid staff role to keep this great scheme running and good luck to Dakota leading the way.

Our coffee and cake stalls continue to be a great success. It was something new we tried in 2015 and it proved so positive we continued in 2016. At events such as the Easter Hat Parade and PBL assemblies the coffee machine was pulled out with coffee and cakes for sale. With the split of the last PBL assembly, having infants assembly followed by a break before the primary assembly started meant more coffee and cake could be consumed. Parents and friends welcomed the separation of the two assemblies. Feedback has been positive, something to consider continuing for all PBL assemblies in 2017.

Students at Mudgee Public continue to support school banking and it is still very successful with a large number of bankers depositing each week. Thank you to our 2016 school banking coordinators for their commitment to school banking, Anita and Danielle. Whilst Anita was on leave a big thank you to Simone Hurrell and Donna Consadine who stepped in so school banking could continue.

Our annual Mothers Day and Fathers Day Stalls were held in 2016. A new approach to the usual miscellaneous gifts was undertaken for the Mothers Day stall. A group of volunteers led by Liz Halbisich took photos of our beautiful children and our children chose a frame for this to be placed in. I have no doubt many mums now have these beautiful keepsakes pride of place as I know Liz and her team were overrun with sales. Unfortunately time or available volunteers did not allow for such an idea to take place for the Fathers Day Stall and the usual array of gifts were available to purchase for our Dads. We must remember these stalls are not held to raise money but rather to provide an opportunity for children to purchase a gift to take home that is a "surprise" for Mum or Dad. Thank you to those who gave up their time in running these stalls.

Another successful attempt to increase communication between school and home is the Parent Liaison Network. Now in it's 3rd year many now couldn't do without it. It provides a vital link between the home and the classroom and critical reminders of money due and up coming events are shared. Many thanks to Sonja Lunn and her team leaders who ensure this process runs smoothly.

Our two big fundraisers for 2016 were our shopping spree and our Crazy Camel Fundraiser. Sheryn worked tirelessly to set these up until sadly (for us) she moved with her family to New Zealand. We do wish Sheryn and her family all the best with their new adventure but she will be missed in our P&C team.

The Coles Shopping Spree tickets went on sale at the beginning of Term 4. It was greatly received and congratulations to Fiona Smith mother of 2 at Mudgee Public who won the prize. With some tweaking for 2017 this will continue to be a great fundraising opportunity. Thanks to all for selling tickets and to those who came along on the night to support the trolley run!

November saw us in the midst of our Crazy Camel Fundraiser, started by Sheryn and finished by several helpers within our school community. Artworks were done in class and were well received. Not all families chose to purchase but a significant number did with more than 2/3 in most classes purchasing something. Feedback around this was good timing right before Christmas as many bought artwork items including calendars, pillowcases and diaries not only

for themselves but also as Christmas presents for Aunty and Grandma. Families embraced the opportunity to purchase things their children made.

Also in November I had the opportunity to attend the School Spectacular in Sydney. The team of 9 led by Mrs Meers and some parent helpers travelled to Sydney for a most amazing week. The show is called a spectacular for a reason – it truly is ‘spectacular’. An amazing amount of time and effort clearly goes into organising this outstanding, professional event. It is a unique experience for any child and to witness first hand the talent abound in public schools is remarkable. An opportunity I hope is made available to others in the coming years.

Our school year ended with our awards night led by Mr Kerr for our students receiving awards for excellence across various areas throughout 2016. Thanks to all involved in organising this night and to our special guests for attending. A big thanks also to Kim who coordinated the BBQ on the evening which so many in attendance were appreciative of.

While fundraising is an important aspect of the work of the P&C we also work to address the needs of our children and their learning environment. We wrote a letter to Mr Troy Grant in 2015 regarding the growing number of students and inadequate toilet facilities. We did meet with Mr Grant to show him our situation first hand early in 2016, although other events later in 2016 saw Mr Grant’s position change and we are now back to square one. Mr Kerr continues to lobby through school channels and this will remain on the agenda throughout 2017.

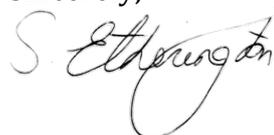
2017 saw the P&C and volunteers participate in so many events big and small that I can’t begin to list them all here. Suffice to say amounts fundraised in 2017 were around the \$20,000.00 mark. Obviously some monies are already pledged toward such items as the extra section of rubber surfacing required for the Infants and Primary Colas that has been laid, and to cover general expenses. 2017 will see us working toward funds for replacing air conditioners as they come to the end of their lives. Our current hot conditions highlight the need to ensure our classrooms are cooled sufficiently to provide a constructive learning environment. Mr Kerr will be doing a school assessment around this so we can budget and raise required monies for 2017.

Volunteers are the backbone of any school community to create partnership and support school initiatives. Our success as a P&C is not just measured in the funds we raise but also in the other ways we contribute, and in the strong positive community we build. Needless to say our involvement as volunteers is endless, a magnificent effort was made by all volunteers in 2016, well done and thank you.

Once again, thank you to the P&C executive for their support and involvement over the past year. Thanks to the parents and care givers who continue to support our school each year and thanks to Mr Kerr and staff who we work alongside to meet their needs of ever changing resources in providing a positive learning environment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sacha Etherington
Mudgee Public School P&C