

P&C PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014

Welcome everyone to the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Tighes Hill P&C. I am sorry that I cannot be there in person and I thank Kaylene for delivering this report on my behalf.

2014 has been another incredible year for the Tighes Hill P&C.

Strong attendance at meetings continued throughout the year with some great discussions on a range of issues. It is so important that we always remain a P&C that is open, inclusive and celebrates diversity and I would like to thank Tony for his willingness to engage with us on such a broad range of issues.

This year has been characterised by as much action as talk. There has been an incredible amount of activity and it's so exciting to see some real and tangible differences around the playground. The installation of the P&C funded play equipment in September, a few months earlier than originally planned, is a lasting testament to the hard work and energy of parents past and present. I would like to thank, in particular, Ben and Monique for their contributions to this project, and also to Justin who delivered over and above his quoted component. We now have a playground that is built to last, uniquely ours and the kids absolutely love it.

I would also like to thank the Environment Group and Tess for her co-ordination of a number of working bees throughout the year. The efforts of volunteers on these days and throughout the school term are also very visible and the school will enjoy the benefits for generations to come.

Our Canteen Group has continued throughout 2014 to shape this service into something that meets the needs of our children and families but does so in a sustainable way. We transitioned to a three day week without a fuss and similarly changes to ordering and purchasing times have caused very few problems. The canteen will soon have a functioning oven which will once again change what can be offered and will open the way to some great new fresh food options, particularly in the colder months. I would like to thank the crew of regular canteen faces who have worked hard to improve the service and delivery this year. I would particularly like to thank Michael and Naomi who put in far more time and energy than most people would even be aware of.

Fundraising has once again been incredibly successful in 2014. Our Fundraising Group has provided a wide variety of opportunities for families and the community to support our efforts. For the second year we held a very successful movie day which was extremely well attended and enjoyed by adults and kids alike. Thanks to Ali for initiating this great winter activity, which is becoming a much anticipated annual event.

Our Mothers and Fathers Day stalls continue to thrive and provide such a great service to our children and families. I know of many families whose only purchases on these occasions are from our stall and there is always great excitement to surprise both mum and dad with the purchase. Thanks to Tai for taking on the responsibility for running these stalls – the energy and excitement you bring to them makes them even more special for the kids.

Other fundraising activities have included heat packs, wine tasting and of course, the recent Halloween Fete. The growth of this event in two years was remarkable. With

the support of so many volunteers this year we were able to do more and it also meant (I hope) that everyone had a chance to enjoy some part of the fete away from a stall – unless of course they preferred to stay in one spot. I was delighted to see an increase in our sponsorship base this year and to see several sponsors returning from 2012. We will continue to nurture these relationships so their support is mutually rewarding. The number of prize donations was also quite staggering this year and in the end, we held some over for use at another time. Special thanks to the teachers who offered themselves as auction items. This was once again a highlight of the event, very lucrative and a lot of fun.

The success of the fete was the result of the efforts of many. Thanks to Tony and the staff for being so great as we took over the playground in preparation and for the work that many classes put in in the lead up to the event. Thanks also to Tony for his efforts once again as MC. You worked harder than many of us up there in the sun all afternoon.

By now you may be wondering why this report contains no hard and fast figures. There are two reasons for this – the first is that I don't know what the final numbers are, but secondly, rather than making assumptions and estimates, I would prefer to leave the numbers to Tai and leave this report to focus on the non-monetary gains which are also incredibly important.

I have been particularly struck this year by the abundance of volunteers at every event. From working bees to sausage sizzles, movie days to coffee stalls, we are now in the fortunate position of quite often having more help than we need. Some of the newer families may not realise how significant and exciting a change this is, in just a few short years. Thank you to everyone who put their hand up so readily to help throughout the year.

I would also like to comment on the outstanding relationship between the P&C and the staff of Tighes Hill, led by Tony. These relationships are growing stronger term after term and during my time as President I have enjoyed nothing but support from Tony and his team. This is not always the case between schools and P&Cs, but I am proud of all of us that we work so well together.

I am also very proud of the role our school plays in the broader community and the P&C is very much a part of that. This is particularly evident at events such as Election Days and the fete, when our school becomes a social hub for others, whether they have school aged children or not. I hope we will continue to find ways to engage with our community and to actively seek their involvement and input.

After two years as President I am handing over the reigns to the next capable pair of hands. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience and one of the most rewarding aspects is the lifelong friends I have gained.

And on that note, I say thank you Tighes Hill school – to Tony and Mary in particular; thank you to the members of the 2014 Executive – Kaylene, Tai, Glyn, Nat and Ali you are all wonderful; and thank you to all the regular meeting attendees and volunteers. It's been an amazing year.