

President's Report
23rd November 2015

Welcome everyone to the the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Tighes Hill P&C.

2015 has been another great year for Tighes Hill P&C, and next year will be even bigger.

Tighes Hill P&C continues to be strongly supported through the parent body and its core group of volunteers, as well as Principal Tony Sewood and all his staff. All of which we give thanks to all the hard effort put in over the year. Tighes Hill PnC continues to be an open platform for discussions, ideas and contributions by parents and staff.

This year started with a welcome night for new parents to the school, we would once again like to thank the Kristy and Corey Crooks, who provided the amazing venue, food and drinks. We had a great turn out of around 40 people, made up of both new and existing parents. Everyone had a fantastic night thanks to the Crooks and their staff at The Grain Store.

In 2015 our Canteen Group has continued to work hard to develop a healthy and sustainable canteen service for Tighes Hill community. Rachael McCollough has done an outstanding job as canteen manager together with purchasing manager Michael Badlier with the support of Mary Crump. This year has seen the canteen reviewed by the Good Food for Kids program and has excelled in reaching a high level of healthy foods with only one red item food. This year has seen a number of white good challenges; as a result the oven, microwave, freezer, fridge and rangehood has now been replaced. I would like to thank the numerous volunteers for their valuable time throughout this year.

Fundraising again this year has been incredible, and continues to be key focus within the PnC group. Headed by Kaylene, Ally Reine, Kristy Crooks, Kristen Tola, Sarah Nash and many other have all worked tirelessly to develop fundraising ideas to help support the school. This year has seen an Election Day BBQ, Book Week Parade BBQ, Mother's Day Stall, Fathers Day Stall, another successful Movie Day, as well as the Carrington School Markets BBQ.

Fundraising is such an important part of what we do to support the school and all money raised goes back into supporting students in the way of subsidising bus fares, buying of books and the support of extracurricular activities. Funds are also goes directed towards P&C initiatives such as the Garden and the Art Cave, as well the purchase of long term assess such as the canteen white goods, the new piano, 30 ukuleles and the new storage area.

The Environment Group has been a little quieter this year but the group continues to work towards a long term master plan to improve the playground. As part of the master plan a number of parents and Staff members attended a playground tour of Hamilton Public School organised by Naomi Isaacs. A working bee was also held earlier in the year to tidy up the playground.

Tighes Hill P&C has supported a number of initiatives in the school this year, starting with the Garden Club where we have seen a dramatic increase in participation on Fridays. A big thanks to Dale and the other supporting volunteers who continue to build the garden up and run the Garden Club and regular Vege stalls.

Another initiative of the P&C this year has been the establishment of the Art Cave. Local artist and parent Jane Lander and with the support of the school teaching body the Art Cave in its inaugural year has been an overwhelming success. This year's works culminated with a mid year exhibition held in the lower hall. Jane has made a significant effort in resurrecting the Pottery Kiln, and we are one of only a handful of schools with a functioning Kiln. A huge thank you to Jane Lander for facilitating the Art Cave program together with her assistance David and Thuy.

This year has seen an increase in music participation supported by the P&C. In July the P&C funded the Music Viva program to come to the school, the program was made available to all students to attend for free. The school band continues to gather momentum after initially being supported financially by both the School and the PnC, it is now in a position to financially support itself, a big thanks to our external music tutors Paul & Zac Isaacs.

This year the P&C allocated funds for the purchase of a new piano, the piano has made a significant improvement in the quality of learning due to the improved sound, thanks to Jodie Kell our external piano tutor. Another program worth a mention, but is not directly initiated by the P&C, is The Ukulele club which has been running each Thursday after school for the past few terms with last years P&C purchase of 30 ukuleles, a huge thank you to parent Limerick Kaye for volunteering her time and starting up the club.

This year Tighes Hill P&C stepped out of its own backyard and into the broader community by working with Islington P&C to put on a free community event at Islington Park, The Rainbow Treasure Hunt was a remarkable event that brought together people outside of the school community as well as parents and students from two different schools. The event was supported by a core group of parents from each P&C group and received funding from the Newcastle City Council - Place Making Grant Program. With the success of the event we would like to turn this into an annual event that can be a fundraiser for both schools.

This year has been a bit of a learning curve for myself in the role of president, and I would like to thank my executive team for their support Vice President - Fundraising Kaylene Hanright, Vice President - Publicity Ash Sneddon, Treasurer Tai Bawden and Secretary Kristen Tola, to all the P&C members for their input and time at meetings and events, to all the canteen volunteers and volunteers at each event, thank you.

Thanks to Tony, Mary and the rest of the staffing team for their continued support and openness in respect to the relationship between parents, community and staff. We thank them for their hard work in the classroom and still be able to attend to our concerns and issues outside of that.

I feel a real privilege to be a part of a school community so actively involved with the outcomes of each and every student, we have a special thing going on in this community that is both and rare and beautiful. It takes passion and commitment from individuals on a day to day basis to make this what it is today. I look forward to 2016.

Thank you.

Tighes Hill Public School P&C President
Benjamin Coillis