Welcome to my report as president of the P&C Association at Oak Flats Public School.

It has been a privilege to represent the parents and citizens of Oak Flats PS as president of this P & C Association. It is at times a demanding and complex role but at the same time it is extremely rewarding. The sole objective of my executive team this year was to work towards one goal; improving the school environment for our students and teaching community.

The Oak Flats Public School P & C provides a very important function in the school community – it promotes the interests of the school by bringing together parents, citizens, students and teachers into close cooperation. It is essential we, as the only body in the school representing parents, remember that we all must work together to maintain Oak Flats Public School as a leader in 21st century learning and engaging every student in the innovative learning community pathway.

2015 has seen a core group of members attending our monthly meetings. In an effort to increase participation in the P&C we introduced Parent Information Sessions during the latter part of this year which ran twice of an afternoon from 2:30pm with the focus on promoting feedback and ideas from parents for the 2016 school year. The initial attendance and discussion at these sessions have been promising and look forward to their continuance in 2016.

At each of our committee meetings our principal Karen Hodge and relieving principal Ronda Moon provided regular updates and sought feedback regarding many aspects of school life at Oak Flats PS. The P&C would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to both Mrs. Hodge, Mrs. Moon and all the teaching and office staff for being so supportive of the P&C and our work. They show a passion and commitment to their roles that is to be highly commended.

In Partnership with the Fundraising Committee, the P&C Association supported the school through a number of fundraising events and initiatives during the past year. Our fundraising events included our very popular Mothers’ Day Stall and Fathers’ Day Stall, Family Portrait Day, Lamington Drive, Term Discos and our hugely successful Walk-a-thon.

On Thursday 10 December 2015, we will see the return of Carols by Candlelight and look forward to the school and parent community coming together to celebrate the end of another successful year for Oak Flats Public School.

All of our fundraising events were strongly supported by the school and parent community both in attendance and raising much needed funds for the school community. The P&C extends its sincere appreciation for your efforts, we would not be able to achieve the success of this year without the involvement and generosity of parents, students and teachers.

I wish to thank members of the P&C executive team for their support and volunteering of their valuable time, thank you to those committee members who have worked hard to ensure the success of these events and thank you to the teacher community who have selflessly stepped in and supported each and every one of our events. Your contribution is highly valued and appreciated.
The profits from P & C Fundraising Events are used by Oak Flats PS to provide additional resources that benefit students and staff. As a result of the fundraising efforts to 30 September 2015, a total of $21,063.95 was presented to the school to support improvement of our school site through the purchase and installation of much needed air conditioning systems in classrooms.

The P&C Canteen has had a very successful year primarily in part to the efforts of our Canteen Supervisor Anne Tolhurst and strongly supported by P&C Vice President Kelley Ryan. Thank you to both Anne, Kelley, the canteen committee and a core group of volunteers who have assisted throughout the year enabling the Canteen to generate and provide the school with an additional $15,000 towards the purchase and installation of air conditioning systems for the classrooms. We continue to struggle to attract the number of volunteers required to help us maintain the level of service our P&C run canteen currently offers. In 2016, the canteen faces new challenges with scheduling of lunch breaks so anyone that can spare an hour or two once a week, fortnight or month, please see Anne. We really need your help!

While fundraising is an important aspect of the work of the P&C we also work to address the needs of our children and the school environment. This year your P&C has been involved in ongoing and meaningful correspondence with Shellharbour City Council and the Roads & Maritime Services (RMS), in order to find a solution to the issue of parking and some driver behavior in the streets bordering our school. Unfortunately, this is an ongoing issue and we all need to remember to be safe around our school to enable our children to remain safe when travelling to and from school.

At our Kindergarten orientation sessions, the P&C donated a school hat and re-useable lunch bag to each child commencing Kindergarten at Oak Flats Public School in 2016. This is a worthwhile initiative and one that I hope continues in the future.

A special thank you must go to the parents and caregivers who continue to support the school each year by participating in the various fundraising events throughout the year and attending P & C meetings where possible. The school community values the effort you have made to provide additional resources for the children and staff at Oak Flats PS. Your valued efforts have ensured that this year has been a successful one and sets the foundation for the 2016 school year.

On behalf of the P&C Association, I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the parent volunteers of students who are leaving us at the end of this year. Your efforts and contribution throughout the years has not gone unnoticed. I wish you all the very best as your child enters high school and again, thank you for all that you have done to contribute to the success of the association’s work in improving the Oak Flats Public School Community.

In closing, a reminder that all parents and caregivers are always welcomed to our meetings usually held on the third Tuesday of the month during the school term. Our next meeting will be held in February 2016 with dates to be confirmed. Please come along and join in the discussion about your child’s education and how together, we can continue to contribute towards the ongoing improvement and successes at Oak Flats Public School. We value new ideas and your input!

President

Oak Flats Public School P&C Association