

P&F AGM Report for 2015

Firstly P&F would like to thank the parents who attend the meetings and lend their support to the various initiatives run – without your dedication and support there would not be either a P&F, or the strong, creative and vibrant school we have today.

The key focus of P&F for 2015 has been community building and strengthening the bonds between parents and school. While the children are always the central focus of our school, we also need to continue to foster and embrace our parent community who, together with teachers, staff and management, hold the space for our children to grow, love and learn.

SEA CONFERENCE

The SEA Conference held at our school in early July was an absolute joy to be part of. P&F catered for one of the evening events and a huge thank-you to those parents and students who helped out in the kitchen and with the serving. P&F raised \$506.

KEEP CUPS

To support the school's sustainability drive P&F invested in Keep Cups, an Australian made re-useable coffee cup. Of the 60 cups purchased we had only 12 left at the end of 2015, and the social and environmental impacts have been greatly beneficial. At this stage we have broken even and covered our costs. The sale of the last 12 cups will see \$180 that can go towards our fundraising.

BUSH DANCE

The Bush Dance was once again a great social event and P&F is grateful to the parents of classes 5&6 for their efforts in organising and running the event, raising \$1043.60. Both classes received \$208.72 each. We are looking forward to the event again this year on (TBC) 20th May.

CHAI TENT

One of the new initiatives introduced by P&F in 2015 was the Chai Tent. It ran once or twice a term from Term 2 -4. It serves two purposes – to provide a fundraising platform for classes, which C11 took up with great enthusiasm and success, but more importantly, it provided an opportunity for our principal to engage with parents and students in an informal setting. This is really important in maintaining open communication through all levels of our school.

CRAFT & SCOOP

Sandi Valerio, as Craft Group co-ordinator, introduced two new initiatives – seasonal markets and SCOOP or School Co-Op. The idea was that parents who made a set number of craft items for the school (under the direction of the craft co-ordinator) would then have the opportunity to include their personal craft items on the school craft table during the Spring Fair. 10% of SCOOP sales were then donated to the school as well. This did lead to an increase in the amount of beautiful craft available at the Spring Fair but a

decrease in the amount of funds raised by the craft group for school. A review of the SCOOP model will be discussed in early 2016.

Sadly at the end of 2015, Sandi resigned from her position as craft co-ordinator after several years of dedication.

The seasonal markets of Autumn and Winter were widely supported by both artisans and parents alike. Following the Spring Fair it was decided to work towards developing the annual Christmas Market to include a festival for summer. The Cl. 2 parents embraced the idea and incorporated additional decorations and an opening and closing ceremony to reflect significant themes of the season. We were also very grateful for the support of teaching staff in changing the time and duration of the event. We look forward to being a part of growing the Christmas Festival Market in coming years.

SILKY OAK COTTAGE

2015 also saw the naming of the P&F room as Silky Oak Cottage and we would like to acknowledge both Sandi and Gavin for making this possible.

Before the beginning of 2016 year we organised a small group of volunteers to help paint the cottage which was in desperate need of a make over. The use of neutral tones has enhanced the space and made it a more aesthetically appealing.

We are grateful to those who put aside some of their holiday time to assist us in our efforts.

SPRING FAIR

In 2014, following discussions with school management, P&F voted to employ an events co-ordinator to run the Spring Fair. The objective was to reduce the stress and workload on parents and to streamline the event. Rachel Sullivan, a parent of our school and experienced events co-ordinator was employed in 2015 for this purpose.

The Spring Fair for 2015 was an outstanding community and social event. There were many comments regarding the wonderful atmosphere of the occasion. The C3 parents with Rachel's support, did an extraordinary job.

After problems with inaccurate account keeping in previous years, the P&F ensured that the 2015 SF budget was more carefully managed. This resulted in a more accurate picture of the true costings and profits of the event overall.

The Sample Festival also ran the same day as the 2015 SF which did reflect on the final figures for the year. The profit for 2015 SF was \$12,097.99

BOOKKEEPER

To help make the P&F run more efficiently it was decided to employ a professional book-keeper, Bettina Hartmann, who also works as a relief staff member for the school accounts department. Mark Charter Accountants, who audit our accounts each year, have been pleased with the results which allow us to maintain compliance with the Department of Fair Trade.

FRIDAY MARKET

This is co-ordinated by Tania Djipalo, continues to be as popular as ever and we thank

Tania for her ongoing work and positive manner in managing this aspect of P&F.

SCHOOL CARDS (CALENDAR)

The production of a school calendar fulfilled several aspects integral to our school community – it was a C1 fundraiser, an opportunity for C1 parents to work together and get to know their class community better and it was a marketing/promotional tool for the school.

However, while beautiful, the calendar was not very successful in terms of sales. On average of the 400 calendars printed less than 100 would be sold each year.

In 2015, after much discussion, it was decided to produce greeting cards instead, as they have an unlimited shelf life, do not rely on finding advertisers to cover the cost of production and artistically promote our beautiful school.

C1 managed to create a fantastic set of cards all within the space of one term – it was wonderful to see parents enthusiastically packaging up the cards before the Fair on their class verandah.

FOOD POLICY

In consultation with Nerrida and school management, P&F became involved in the development of a Food Policy for the school. The aim is to reflect the principles and practices of Steiner Schools, the expectations of relevant government legislation and the growing awareness within our society regarding the reduction of rates of overweight and obesity among children and young people. Discussion and work on the policy continues into 2016 and will be implemented throughout the school when finalised.

WISHLIST

P&F is continuing with the 2014 decision to save the proceeds from fundraising activities to put towards larger projects within the school (like the outdoor classroom (\$10,000) 2014). An adventure playground is one concept but we hope that parents will put forward their ideas.

As a result individual classes will be more involved in their own fundraising for the purchase of specific class items. Interest in fundraising is being directed towards activities such as catering for school events and running stalls at the various markets.

P&F is looking for parents willing to facilitate the following:

Treasurer

Craft Group

Repair, Care & Maintenance BBQ co-ordinator

Chai Tent