2015 has been a very busy year and time has gone so quickly. We as parents have been very fortunate to have had such a great group of teachers and support staff. So I am not only a proud parent of 2 beautiful children, but I am also a proud representative of the P&C Association. As you all know our school has had outstanding achievements in so many areas this year. Of course all of this would not have been possible without the ongoing dedication from us as families, but also from the ongoing commitment and dedication from our wonderful teachers, teacher-aides, administration officers, groundsmen, maintenance staff, cleaners and of course least but definitely not last our great leaders, Margaret James, Sharie Callum, Leigh Josey, Marie Haycock, Rosemaree Caswell and special mentions to Amanda Fry, Stephen O’Brien and Susan Cowley who have served with us this year.

Thank you all for making this school a wonderful place for our children.

The P&C has again supported many events throughout the year and raised over $32,000 in profits in fundraising alone that will go towards projects in and around our school. The support we offer is not just financial but also through volunteering. We would like to acknowledge and thank the family members who help run our school canteen and volunteer for other duties throughout the year.

The P&C could not function properly without a strong, respectful and friendly relationship with every staff member at Ashmore State School. The P&C should endeavour to continue to work and to help grow this wonderful relationship.

I would like to say a very special thanks to my executive committee: Kim Kronen our Vice President, Erin O’Shea our Secretary and Chelsea O’Neil our Treasurer and not forgetting Raquel Lyons who was VP for the early part of the year. These extremely dedicated people have all been tremendous in their roles and have helped to keep our P&C functioning purposefully for the benefit and betterment of our school.

I also would like to thank the following P&C members, staff and volunteers for their continued support throughout the year: Donna Fraser our Uniform Convenor, Kerry Trost, Caroline Britnell and Kim Mackintosh who all work so tirelessly in our tuckshop and uniform shop and to our volunteers such as Barbera, Stephanie, Claudia, Jackie, Kripi and the many more whose names I have either forgotten or have missed who come to help out anytime we need them. A special mention goes to Simone for always being there and being my wing-man (or should that be wing-woman), our grant writer extraordinaire and the most capable Admin Assistant that any P&C could wish for and of course all the other P&C members for their contributions and time towards P&C matters throughout the year. Thank you team for all your help. Without your hard work we could never achieve the outstanding results that we do for our school.

Our Uniform shop and Tuckshop both continue to do well with a high percentage of our profits coming from sales of uniforms and book-packs. Uniform shop now has a POS system installed which makes our sales and stock-keeping process easier for our staff and volunteers. The Tuckshop has gone through a few changes in the products that we serve and will go through a few more as and when the new Queensland Government Smart Choices guidelines for Schools come into place in 2017 and we are well placed to meet those new demands. I am pleased to say our healthier and homemade recipes have been well received by students, parents and staff alike. We will continue to align our menu with the Smart Choices guidelines to ensure we are giving our students the best choice in the range of foods we sell in the Tuckshop. For easing the congestion at the tuckshop payment window in the mornings before school we have added EFTPOS service which makes it much easier for our customers to purchase lunches even on those very busy days or to make over the phone payments for emergency lunches.
Thanks also to those who have volunteered in other ways to run stalls for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, collecting the jars for our $0.50 challenge and our banking team of Tracey, Alana, Louise, Janet and their helpers as well as to anyone who has turned a sausage, sorted the bread, delivered drinks or have just offered their time when called upon.

Our school fete in 2015 was a joyous event that was very well received by the local community. Thank you to all involved for making the day such a memorable one special mentions to Janet Mackintosh, Erin McCormack Juliette Hauff, Tracey Wentworth, Sarah Pittman and all other members of our Fete Committee for their tireless efforts in making it a wonderful occasion enjoyed by many.

2015 also saw our Stephanie Alexander Program get off to a flying start with our year two students exploring ways in which to grow, harvest, cook and share food grown from our very own Community Garden. I would personally like to thank all those parents and staff that assisted in the program last year and the memorable sight of over 60 parents attending our celebration days for SAKG was a very warm and welcoming sight especially as they ate all the food that was on offer that day. We (or should I say Simone) have been successful in our application for the Gaming Grant to the tune of $21000 which will see our hall kitchen being upgraded over the forthcoming school holidays. Our Memorandum of Understanding with Ashmore Community Garden has now come to the end of its 3 year cycle and I would like to take this time to thank all on the ACG Committee and its members for their knowledge and support during this time. ACG will no longer be on site here at Ashmore but have left us with a legacy garden that we can be sure to proud of. Along with tools and equipment we have been gifted some wonderful garden beds that will need our love, care and attention just like we care for our children here at Ashmore. I hope the P&C are willing and wanting to keep our gardens and garden club in operation as they provide a wonderful learning environment for our students and I urge all of our school community to keep up the support of this program as it will play a pivotal role in our children’s understanding of sustainability, environment, seasonal produce and general health and well-being. As you will agree these are great life-skills to learn and tools for all future generations to empower.

The future of Ashmore is bright. As an Independent Public School we now have the opportunity to have an even greater involvement in the direction of the future of Ashmore State School and the P&C is a great vehicle to have your voice heard. We strongly encourage as many parents as possible to be part of the P&C in 2016 and beyond and connect with your child’s school. Ashmore now has a School Council of which the President of the P&C is an automatic member. Whoever takes up this role will be helping to shape the future of our school not just for the year to come but for many years ahead. This is a great opportunity for anyone that can look beyond the short term gains but envisage how our school community can be embraced in the long term and how we can keep and grow our existing network of like-minded people, businesses partners and business services, educational services and partners and not forgetting those that look after our health and well-being. These are all important factors in our lives today and they also have a major role to play in the home environments that our students come from.

I know I will have forgotten to thank many people in the process so I thank you all for making this school a great place for our children and the many more children that will attend here in the future.

Ron Odle

President
Ashmore State School P&C