As a new year begins, I would like to welcome old and new faces alike and take time to thank everyone who contributed in some way to our P&F fundraising efforts for 2015. All in all, it was a very successful (somewhat busy) year for us, starting with the formation of our year group co-ordinators and assigning them their task.

In K/PP it was the 2 Gemma’s, Gemma Healy –Maver and Gemma Suckling who took control of the delicious Father’s Day breakfast and carnival morning tea.

Yr 1/2 had the Art Gallery Extravaganza and this was placed in the capable hands of Nerolie Gerryn, Sonya Teakle along with the Staff.

NCVISSA Winter Carnival saw the Yr 3/4 co-ordinators Jenny Johnson and Anna Bromley tackle lunch orders and wet weather, while

In Yr 5/6, Jan Eastough and Kate Hasleby took on the Knights of the Southern Cross Dinner as their last hurrah!

And then there was more... With Trin bravely tackling our new online footy comp and Kristy Williams putting her hand up again to organise the Graduation Dinner along with the Yr 5 parents and children as helpers. And just when we thought we were done, I then decided to throw in a Melbourne Cup Luncheon and some extra catering opportunities and that everyone, officially concluded our fundraising for 2015.

So basically THANK YOU! Thank you to each and every person I have or haven’t mentioned this evening. All of these events needed chiefs but could not have been made possible with out the hard-working Indians. If you contributed to any of these things in any way you helped to make a difference. I tell people frequently how lucky we are at St Marys because even though our community is small, what we lack in numbers we make up for in hard work, determination and a ‘no trouble at all’ attitude.

And all of our hard work has paid off in some of the wonderful things that we were able to provide the school with in 2015, but I will let Trin talk to you about that in her report.

On a personal note I would like to deeply thank Melissa and the committee members Kristy, Trin and Jan and those parents that came to support us each meeting. Thanks for being there whenever I needed you. A special mention goes out to Jan Eastough and Kate Hasleby, who have now left us to join the ranks of high school. I came onto the committee in 2011 and it was these 2 ladies who were a pillar of support while I found my feet in the roles I took on. It was a great loss to our school P&F community to lose these 2 hard-working individuals (not to mention how lost I am already feeling that my fortnightly giggle from the P&F going-ons section is missing from our newsletter) so on behalf of us all I wanted to say thank you to them for all of their contributions over the years.

On a final note (and this is my final note as I am stepping down tonight), our first P&F meeting will be held in week 4 on a _______. I encourage anyone who wants to come and see what this P&F business is all about to attend—it truly is a bit of business mixed with a lots of laughs and even some choccy bickies are thrown in as additional perks! Coming to a meeting in no way commits you to being a chief, we love Indians so if you want to be an Indian, we are more than happy to have you. Thank you.