Welcome to all the parents, partners and guardians of children joining Applecross Senior High School for the first time in 2016, and welcome back to those who are already part of the School.

Your P&C of committed parents supports the activities and facilities of the School across a broad spectrum. The P&C primarily directs funding from parent contributions and other sources to benefit students at our School. Over the years we (you!) have been able to provide essential items such as air conditioning, shaded and landscaped areas - for example in the new courtyards and the pool area. This year you will notice a lot of new seating that we placed on order at the close of 2015. Funding supports more Library resources too, as well as community awards and helps to showcase the two specialist programs of Special Art and and Tennis. Contributions are also directed to pastoral services, camps and other study-related activities.

The P&C provides important representation to Government through our affiliation with other P&Cs under WACSSO (WA Council of State School Organisations.) In a political climate where Schools are encouraged to do more with less, your voice through the P&C and WACSSO can help guide Government in ways that enrich our students' experience. We actively support the Special Art and Tennis programmes, the Music programme and work with Paul Leech our Principal to support other learning areas and initiatives that are highlight for attention.

A major source of pride, and income, is our School Canteen. Under the guidance of Cre Miller and Peter Samson our canteen provides tasty, healthy meals and snacks, mostly cooked-from-scratch onsite. Consider a Year 7 student's recent viewpoint - “the food, even though it's healthy, is really great”. High praise indeed!

Our Canteen is one of very few in secondary schools that have stood the test of time and Cre has been elected as an Executive Member of the WA School Canteen Association. Congratulations, Cre! Sadly we will be losing the services of Peter after many years. He hands over the Canteen in very sound condition and, typical of Peter, has volunteered to ease the transition to a new incumbent.

During 2015 I was fortunate to secure a visit by Prof. Peter Quinn of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR.) In a fascinating evening lecture, Peter explained his group's work in Astrophysics, the Square Kilometer Array radio telescope project and the impact of his branch of science on human knowledge. He inspired year 10 students to consider careers in all aspects of science and engineering. I hope that we will follow up with other invited speakers, from a range of disciplines and backgrounds in this and succeeding years.

Surely as past President, Angela Parsons, stated, we all lead busy lives. However please consider sparing an hour or so each month involving yourself in the P&C activities.
Third Monday of each month in School Terms, 7:30PM at the School. More important even than your direct involvement, you will be sending an implicit role model message that “community service is healthy.” Our society will benefit.

My workplace workload is increasing to fever pitch and accordingly I will be seeking election to the Vice President role in 2016, leaving the opportunity open for a new President with fresh ideas. Perhaps that is you?! Other Committee roles become vacant too from time to time as parents leave our School - perhaps you will fill one of the available roles?

Kind regards and a very peaceful and prosperous 2016 to you all.

Denis Brown
President
Parents and Citizens’ Association
Applecross Senior High School

P.S. Our first meeting for 2016 - including Annual General Meeting – is scheduled for 15th February at the school commencing 7:30PM.