2015 has been another productive year where a range of improvements have occurred. In 2015 we were fortunate to receive approximately $18000 of additional Great Results Guarantee funding. This was used to set specific targets to improve academic performance and was aligned with our 2015 Annual Implementation Plan. At Mount Tyson State School we seek to ensure that every student learns and makes progress at their own level. This straightforward intent is at the heart of nearly all our decision making.

We used additional funding to improve Writing standards. We now have an integrated and functional Writing Plan. All students have writing portfolios and staff moderate standards. Results indicate improving standards and comment was made about our Writing standards at the moderation day with teachers from other schools on October 19. We also used GRG funding to provide time for staff to develop plans for those students below reading benchmarks. Results indicate that all our students on Evidence Based Plans made progress and NAPLAN results where students were below National Minimal Standards were kept to a minimum. The GRG funding also provided teachers with time to plan teaching and learning units in a collaborative way. This is no simple task given that all classes at Mount Tyson are composite classes and the skill levels of staff have improved in this regard.

In 2015 the school went through a systems audit. This essentially involved checking of our financial, HR and WH&S processes. We received a sound rating during this audit. Policy areas are changing regularly and it is often challenging to implement the many complex areas. As a school we had to alter our processes and change the way we were doing some things. While you may not always notice the happenings in the office, it is fair to say things would deteriorate if we were inefficient. Our changes have been important improvements.

The P&C have again been a happy, busy and vital part of the school community. They provide me with advice at times and this helps me with my decision making. They again made some really significant contributions. They provided us with additional funds to purchase computers, and provided money to assist with excursions. Their payment to install a new basketball tower, netball posts and volleyball posts has been perhaps their biggest contribution and something to be remembered in the future. They also received a grant to cover the new playground area and the new covered area should be installed over the summer break. The school welcomes the purchasing of these but I would also like to acknowledge the positive impact the P&C has on the reputation of the school. It is heartening to see the Mount Tyson flag and volunteers working at clearing sales and events like the Brookstead 100 Year celebration.

I would like to acknowledge our Friday Playgroup. It is great to see the younger students mixing and playing in our school most Friday mornings and I know this will help these young people when they start Prep. We have improved our transition programs for students starting prep next year and I trust this will benefit students and parents in 2016. There are many people to acknowledge this year. I would like to thank anyone who volunteered their time to assist the school. My staff have again been wonderful and have often worked long hours to achieve things. I would like to acknowledge parents and know we will continue to cooperate to achieve the best outcomes for students. Finally I would like to state that we have wonderful students at Mount Tyson and they, most of all, have ensured Mount Tyson State School has had another successful year.

Michael Routledge
Principal
Mount Tyson State School
Break-up Party
Our break-up party will be held on Wednesday 9 December at Adora Downs. Transport will be provided with students travelling by bus and will be free. We will leave the school at approx. 9.30am and return by around 2.30pm.

A BBQ Lunch will also be provided at no cost to parents. Students can wear free dress but must wear joggers, hat and sunscreen. They will also need togs, a towel and a water bottle.

A plate of homebake would be appreciated for morning tea please. A permission note is attached and needs to be returned by Monday 7 December.

Water Fun Day
Our traditional water fun day will be held on Thursday December 10. Students will need to bring a change of clothes, a towel and a change of shoes.

Also water guns are to be brought into the classrooms in the morning.

NO water bombs will be allowed as they leave too much mess that has to be cleaned up. Should be a fun, wet day!

Outstanding Accounts
We would very much appreciate if all outstanding amounts owing to school please be paid by next Tuesday 8 December. Please see Lorraine at the office if you need further information. Thanks.

Thank you
A big thanks to everyone who attended the Year 6 Graduation Dinner on Monday 30 November and Presentation Night on Tuesday 1st December. These were both wonderful nights and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Semester Reports
These reports will be sent home to parents with students early next week. Look out for these!!

Brookstead Art Camp 2015
Congratulations to Gemma, Mikealee, Dylan, Eddie, Sophie, Amarlie and Jorja who participated in the inaugural Art Camp at Brookstead last week. The event was a huge success, with 46 students from five different schools participating. They spent three very busy days experimenting, designing and creating. With expert advice and direction from two amazing tutors – Mrs Cecelia Krieg and Mrs Lou Ferguson – the students worked with acrylic and watercolour paints, pencils, modelling clay, watercolour pencils and texture paste. An exhibition was held on Friday night, showcasing the incredible talent of our young artists.

A very big thank you must go to Mrs Ros Cameron who tirelessly assisted the students and tutors through the three-day camp, and who provided great support during workshops. Thank you to Mrs Jo Sturgess who assisted with setting up the exhibition on Friday afternoon. Thanks, also, to the parents for providing transport to and from Brookstead for the three days.

The tuckshop ladies at Brookstead made particular mention of Dylan for his lovely manners and constant offers of assistance.

Sophie: What I most enjoyed about Art Camp was acrylic painting on canvas (because it was messy!)

Mikealee: My favourite activity at Art Camp was the drawing. I enjoyed the painting and music, too. I loved it! Don’t change a thing!

Eddie: My favourite activity was the drawing and shading because the shading was a new way to improve my work.

Mrs Beth Wheeldon, Art Camp Co-ordinator

P&C News
P&C Presidents Report
The Parents and Citizens’ association is managed by an executive committee who, with other P&C members, work closely with the principal for the benefit of the students at the school.

This year has been very productive for the Mount Tyson State School P&C Association. We finalised funding for the play fort and it was constructed. A grant has been obtained for the roof of the play fort and will be built over the summer break. With help from Hayden Cann and the community we funded the new sporting equipment and it was installed, new library books were purchased from Book Fair, new laptop computers were supplied to the school and as in previous years, school excursions were funded by the P&C.

For the 2015 year the P&C has raised $14 918.

I would firstly like to thank Mr Routledge, the executives and all the P&C members and volunteers, who regularly give up days to help, whether it’s for tuckshop or a clearing sale. Secondly I would like to thank Cathy Cronin, without her support I would have been lost.

Thank you
Donna Schultz
P&C President
Mount Tyson State School

P – Year 4 Visit to Cobb & Co Museum