



ST. COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

2018 Board Chair Report

2018, has been an exciting period for the School, with the successful completion of important building projects which have transformed the school. It has upgraded the quality of the School's facilities and provided the opportunity to extend the school curriculum on offer. A new School Board oversaw these developments, with three members carrying over for the prior year, and three new members. The 2018 Board's composition has provided continuity in the execution of the prior years' planning works while also benefiting from an injection of fresh approaches brought about by the new members.

Although the School Board's primary role is the management of school finances and provision for present and future needs, this year we realised that role's true breadth, being asset management (generally) with the awareness and planning of future growth. From a compliance standpoint, the Board has worked collaboratively with the school auditors and CEWA and made decisions for the benefit of the school community completing its duties in accordance with its mandate. I would like to thank all Board members for the time and dedication they give to their role on the school Board.

The orderly completion of the building works were a testament to the successful planning of the prior Board, members combined with the careful oversight of Allen McMahon and his staff. Allen's project management skills are exemplary. The professionally delivered building program opened up opportunities for Allen and his staff to identify additional capital proposals ie the new doors on the new mixed building that was the undercover area, the replacement of guttering on the building as well which as managed to be included in the new build cost. The school achieved this through making savings within areas of the new building budget. These savings were then supplemented with the use of school reserves, which had been set aside for future maintenance, and capital use. These additional improvements included the conversion of the undercover area to what has become a magnificent mixed-use building, state of the art interactive screens for the younger years, which will provide teachers with the best tools to facilitate learning. There was also a much-wanted extension to the outdoor play area with the installation of extra climbing equipment. The new Kindy building, which will open in 2019, has been refurbished inside to meet current Kindy requirements. A wonderful playground has been built to meet the outside needs of the Kindy students.

For the remainder of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, the Board will develop the next steps of our School via the completion of a new Three Year Strategic Plan. This will form the critical path to delivering current objectives in light of our greater vision, whilst strictly maintaining our values system.

As with last year, the School was very fortunate to have Mrs Ondine Komnick serve as Acting Principal during times of Allen's leave in Term 2. Ondine has proven she is an accomplished professional, and a leader by example who demonstrates traditional values, which align to the St Columba's School and Parish values. I also thank Mrs Susannah Robinson for her ongoing assistance to the Principal, and Mrs Lorraine Jenaway, Mrs Underwood and Mrs Narelle Foster who work so hard to meet the demanding needs of the School Board, school staff and the students and their families.

A special thank you from all the Board goes the School staff. Now that I have a better understanding of what it takes to deliver a quality education, I cannot thank the teachers and staff enough. It is a tough job, which our staff deliver at the highest level, and I am proud to be associated with these dedicated and talented individuals.

Thank you to also to Monsignor O'Loughlin who has a wonderful way in which to both provide context and deliver his message to our community. To the P&F and parents, thank you for again delivering your contributions.

I wish the Board and all at St Columba's a prosperous 2019.

Anthony Rechichi
School Board Chair