



## 2019 BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Following an eventful year last year which focused on the transformation of the School's facilities to provide the opportunity to extend the school curriculum, 2019, was a year that the Board used to develop the School's medium-term plans, and welcome children into our new Kindergarten at the Father Brennan Centre. Last year the Board committed to developing the next steps for our School via the completion of a new Three Year Strategic Plan ("Strategic Plan"). Following a dedicated effort by the Strategic Plan Committee, led by Neilsen De Souza and including some Board and staff members of the School, the Board approved a plan which forms the critical path to delivering medium-term objectives whilst strictly maintaining our core values. The process involved the Board setting the boundaries, and then a well-balanced and Strategic Planning Committee engaged with the School community to ultimately develop a practical plan to future guide the School in line with Catholic Education Western Australia's ("CEWA") objectives while incorporating our own goals. The Strategic Plan was released to the School community in November.

Commensurate with our Strategic Plan and an important project which further deepened our children's interest in, and understanding of, Australian indigenous culture, was the naming our undercover area "Kalayara Mia", meaning Aboriginal Meeting Place. Kalayara Mia is a magnificent building, and a true meeting place which will be used by all of our community for many years to come. The School's financial commitments were lighter this year, with only minor maintenance works required to be undertaken outside of the School's ordinary business. The significant investment in facilities and infrastructure made in the prior years has slowed for now, and the School is making debt repayments to CEWA for those capital works. Some additional building improvements and facilities are being considered by the Board at present, and there have been allowances included in the 2020 budget. 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.

A special thank you from all the Board goes to the School staff, professionally led by Mr Allen McMahon. Allen and his team work hard and do a terrific job. I strongly encourage parents and carers to back their kids' teachers and help them continue their passion of delivering their best to our children day-in and day-out, and to support our non-teaching staff who keep our school functioning faultlessly.

To our Assistant Principal, Mrs Ondine Komnick, we wish you well after 15 years at our School in your new and well-deserved role as Principal at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, Girrawheen from January 2020. I also thank Mrs Susannah Robinson for her contributions as Assistant Principal, and congratulate Susannah in her recent appointment as Assistant Principal at Hammond Park Catholic Primary School. We also welcome Ms Alison Purvis who will join us as Assistant Principal in January 2020.

Thank you also to Monsignor O'Loughlin who continues to lead our Catholic faith, which is central to our community today, and critical to our School's future. To the P&F and parents, thank you for again delivering your ongoing contributions to school life. I wish the Board and all at St Columba's a prosperous 2020.

Anthony Rechichi  
School Board Chair