

Annual General Meeting

St Maria Goretti's Catholic School Board

President's Report

19 March 2018

Good evening everyone. On behalf of the St Maria Goretti's Catholic School Board, I welcome you tonight to the Annual General Meeting for 2018.

My name is Tony Pickburn and I was the Board President for 2018.

I would like to invite Mr Barrett to lead us in the School Prayer.

The School Board has an important role in ensuring the school's finances are managed appropriately and directed efficiently so that the educational, safety, well-being and spiritual needs of our children are met.

In 2017 we completed the final Capital Development Plan and works that have rebuilt our school into the wonderful facilities we now enjoy. Before considering 2018, I believe it is important to give sincere thanks and commendation to:

1. Mr Martin Barrett, our School Principal for his leadership and guidance over the past six years.
2. To the past and current Board members who have given freely of their time, energy and expertise to guide the progress of our fantastic school.
3. To parent who have come together through the Parents and Friends Association to develop our school community and provide visual support that has enable the Principal and School Board to partition the Catholic Education of Western Australia for the funds from the Commonwealth and State Governments and the wider Catholic Education Community that made the construction possible.

Our School Board focus 2018 was to continue to enhance and grow our school and it is these initiatives my report will focus tonight.

Capital Infrastructure.

Computer Education has been a key to our school re-development. We now boost a new wireless network – which was possible through the generous support of the Parent's and Friends Association. Throughout 2018, the School Board, in

consultation with the staff through the Principal, oversaw the development of the MyDevice Program, which was implemented in fourth term 2018.

The [MyDevice Initiative](#) provides each child from Kindergarten to Year 3 with an iPad and each child from Year 4 – 6 with a HP Windows device free of charge to parents. Mr Barrett will speak to the educational aspects of the program within the Principal's Report however this has been a fantastic boost to educational opportunities of our children and an extension to their educational experience. The MyDevice initiative alleviates a huge financial burden from parents whereas in other schools parents either must provide a device as part of the School Booklist or a School Levy or students are sharing devices.

On behalf of all I thank all involved in the development and implementation of the My Device Initiative.

Less exciting but equally important to the future of our school has been the development of a funding model around the School's [Ongoing Maintenance Program](#) to ensure our children and families will always have a school of which we should rightly be proud.

School Enrolments

Part of the agreement and expectation flowing from the re-development of our school was that we would proactively grow our community.

By growing our community through increased class sizes. Increased enrolments have already enabled the School Board to commit to MyDevice Initiative and purchase additional resources for our children.

The School Board have engaged with an advertising agency which has seen the introduction of:

1. School and Class Open Days
2. Promotional Materials
3. A much higher profile within the area through targeted advertising.

Our growth has exceeded the expectations of Catholic Education WA and ensured our funding for other school-based initiatives, to which Martin will speak, continues to grow.

Support for Educational Initiatives

The School Board has supported the development of a systematic approach to the development of education resources through the direction of the staff, through the Principal, and with the ongoing support of the parents and Friends Association.

In 2018, the primary focus was the development of resources in the areas of Religious Education, Literacy, Numeracy, Science and Physical Education. This

spread has only been possible because of the coordinated and focused approach adopted over the past 6 years. We have a fantastic school which is now performing at or close to the National Standard which is this highest of measuring sticks used in schools.

Well Being Officer

Through the Support of the Australian Commonwealth Government we, as a School Board, were able to continue to maintain Miss Ford as the Well Being Officer. She has led the introduction of the Safe School Framework and Keeping Safe curriculum which are systemic or government requirement of all school.

We thank Monique for her leadership and dedication to the Safety of our children. Your generous sharing of your time and talents is appreciated.

New Facilities

Although this will form part of Martin's report, as educational and administrative leader of our school, I wish to comment on the use of new facilities which have enabled School Masses, Discos, Parents and Friends Functions and the Christmas Concert – which filled both the new Covered Assembly Area and the previous Covered Assembly Area.

We are truly blessed to have a staff that give so generously of their time and talents to develop our gifted children.

The School Board has provided representation to the Advertising Committee, The Canteen Advisory Committee which advised the Principal through a review of the Canteen and its operation following its re-development through the Capital Development Plan. This is ongoing in 2019.

Transition to Accrual Accounting

Too many this will mean little if anything.

But in 2018 all Catholic Education Schools were required to move from – Cash Accounting - one form of reporting to the Australian Commonwealth Government and the Western Australian State Government to Accrual accounting.

To those with limited financial understanding the change could be compared to swimming to Rottnest Blindfolded!

I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Sharon Hindle, who with Martin, have undertaken the massive daily workload. A review of Sharon's workload resulted in the employment of an additional part-time Finance Officer Mrs Clare Dada.

Even with the support of Martin, Marion and Clare the appreciation of the Finance Committee which in 2018 consisted of Mr Glenn Richmond, Treasurer, Mr Andrew

Gaudoin, APA, Mrs Tiffany Johnson, APRE, Martin and me and the full School Board cannot be captured in words but know without you our school would be the less.

Although we await the formal audit report, I am aware that a very positive auditor's report is anticipated over the next few weeks.

Thank you to Sharon, the Finance Committee and all who have overseen our transition to Accrual Accounting.

The importance of the School Board as an advisory body cannot be overstated but we work as part of a team to ensure our community comes together to develop the best education and community for our children.

It is not possible to thank everyone who has given of their time and talents in 2018 but I assure you, you are valued and without your efforts our school would not achieve its potential.

Bearing the above in mind I would like to acknowledge and thank the following:

1. Father Michael Quynh Do who gives freely of his time to support our children and community on their faith journey.
2. Each staff member whose contributions make this school a quality and enriching experience for our children. In particular, our School Principal, Martin Barrett whose enduring commitment and leadership is exemplary and reflective of the school as it stands today.
As you are aware from this week's Newsletter Mr Barrett will commence well-deserved Long Service Leave for Term 2 2019 and will be replaced by Mr Andrew Gaudoin who will be the Short-Term Principal during Martin's leave.
On behalf of the School Board and community I wish Martin a fantastic leave and congratulate Mr Gaudoin on his appointment.
3. To everyone who has contributed to the Parents and Friends Association especially executive members so admirably led by Mrs Karen Wellman and subsequently by Mrs Simone Rooney. Our School community is a credit to everyone as exemplified by their engagement with the 2019 Fete.
4. To each School Board member your contributions and talents have been invaluable to the development of our school. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of Mr Glenn Richmond, the School Board Treasurer, who has actively contributed to many of the Board's initiatives in 2018 in addition to the traditional duties of a Treasurer. To Mrs Simone Northcote, the School Board Secretary. Simone you have undertaken this arduous task with great skill and dedication, and I thank you for everything you have done.

Once again, thank you to everyone for a very successful year which has set our school up for a wonderful future.

Mr Tony Pickburn

Chairman of the St Maria Goretti's Catholic School Board