

Chairman's Report  
AGM – 21 November, 2018

On behalf of the school board it gives me great pleasure to provide the 2018 Chairman's report.

2018 has been a very different year for the board. This is my 5<sup>th</sup> year on the board and it has probably been the most active I have seen the board. However this activity has been very similar to that of a roller coaster with many ups and downs and twists and turns. We started the year planning our roller coaster ride to resemble something like the 'Abyss' at Adventure World. A capital development plan was enacted and an architect was appointed. If you were here last year you would have seen the presentation. It was an exciting plan.

As with any good plans things have changed with many factors out of our control and our 'Abyss' has started to look like the 'Dragons Express'. Funding for projects like the 'Abyss' have been restricted and plans have been put on hold. The board's vision is still - to provide the best possible facilities for our school community and we are determined to move forward with the proposed capital development plan. However, the time frame may just be extended. While we wait for the financial restraints to be lifted, we will do what we can to continually move forward on certain projects. And we all know that the Dragons Express is still pretty fun!!

All jokes aside the board has been very busy in assisting the School Executive with a number of financial and commercial projects. It is here I remind you that the Board acts as an advisory group and an avenue of consultation for the Principal and the leadership team at the school. The board has two sub-committees working with the school at present. Our Finance Sub-committee, and the Capital Development Sub-committee, led by Luke Zammit and who has been assisted greatly by Dinny Kutty, who has become a jack of all trades. Some of the examples of the work this year include

- Formation of the School's Strategic Plan
- Capital Development Sub-committee
- Attended Catholic Education Office meetings on board requirements
- Approved Operational and Capital Budgets
- Refurbishment of the year 3 and 4 toilets
- Obtaining funding for Mater Christi Master Plan from the Cockburn council to look at the oval and its future use.

While this is not an exhaustive list it hopefully provides you with an overview of what does happen at our monthly meetings and the role we play as a board.

One of the privileges of being on the board is working so closely with the School Executive and hearing wonderful stories about the amazing staff we have here at Mater Christi. To our amazing staff no words can describe the appreciation

we have for your efforts day in and day out with our children. The teaching profession is one that on many occasions doesn't get the credit it deserves but tonight you can be rest assured that the board and school community is truly grateful for your dedication and commitment. To our Principal Toni Kalat and Assistant Principals Nicole Woodhouse and Nik Hoffmeister who lead this wonderful staff group, we would like to say, thank you. You continually set high standards in your leadership, and your endless enthusiasm and energy make the Mater Christi community a place to love working at. A special mention to Nik, who has had a tremendous impact on our college community in such a short time. Your efforts with the Fathering Project have been sensational, but even that can't compare to the spectacular commentary at the swimming and athletics carnival. You have set a standard that may never be reached!!!

Working right along side the School Executive is the engine room that is the Admin staff. To Paula Nichols and Rebekah D'Souza, never too busy for a smile, never too busy to lend a helping hand, never too busy to make sure you leave feeling better than when you walked in. Thank you for being the face of our school community to so many people. Robin Giles your roller coaster ride this year makes the 'Abyss' look miniature. The trials and tribulations of moving across to a new accounting system has been exhausting for you but once again nothing is ever too much trouble and you always walk around with a smile on your face and a friendly hello as a greeting. Finally I am not sure there are too many superlatives left to describe this lady, Amanda Burke, who keeps us all in line, the school would be lost without you. Again thank you all.

We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful relationship with the Mater Christi Parish. A huge thank you to Father Dat and Father Joe who have been valuable members of our board meetings this year. Your guidance and counsel has been essential at times this year. I know the children love having you as part of their classroom experiences. To Marina Haywood, our jack of all trades, thank you for your efforts with the parish sacramental programs, our community is so lucky to have you, as you guide us on this journey.

The relationship between the P&F and Board continues to grow and get stronger here at Mater Christi. Thanks to the President, Michelle Hall and her leadership team in Michelle, Rebecca and Leah. The selfless dedication and tireless efforts to provide our community with resources to better our students education continually amazes the board members. We look forward to strengthen this relationship next year as hopefully we move forward on some exciting projects. We wont say that word that starts with "O"!!!

In closing, I'd like to thank the 2018 Board members for everything!!! As a group we have worked hard in 2018 to set a foundation to move forward in some long

term planning for the whole Mater Christi community. Our 'Abyss' will become a reality!!

The school is in a fantastic position spiritually with the strong partnership we have with the parish, educationally, with great staff and high student enrolment levels, and financially with money in the bank. I know this will continue into the foreseeable future.

Thank you

Mark Clayden  
Board Chairperson 2018