

## Chairperson Report 2019

It is my privilege to present to you the 2019 Chairpersons report.

Where to begin!!

### WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN 2019!!

Every year seems to get busier and busier!!

Some of the examples of the work this year include

- Review of the School's Strategic Plan
- Participation in CEWA's 3 year cyclical review of the school
- Enacting the Capital Development Plan, formulated by the working sub-committee over the past 2 years
- Attended Catholic Education Office meetings on board requirements such as accounting system transfer, school management issues
- Negotiated the extension transition of accounting systems from CEWA
- Refurbishment of the toilets both staff and students
- Continued negotiations with Cockburn City Council in coming to a heads of agreement in relation to the oval and its use.

As this will be my final report as I am stepping aside at the completion of the AGM. I would like to start by thanking the members of the school board.

- Luke – chairs the CDP sub-committee, countless hours of meetings and planning to help provide our children with the best facilities, and a constant sounding board for me.
- Dinny (absent family in India) – chairs our finance sub-committee, without his knowledge and expertise this year the board would have struggled immensely with the difficult transition into the new accounting system.
- Laura – our board secretary, thank you for your organisation and efficiency with all the admin tasks I am so bad at!!!
- Karen – our lady with the finger on the pulse of everything, you keep me up to date with everything going on here and elsewhere, this is important to keep me in line!!!
- George your expertise this year with some of the legislation tasks has been vital for us knowing what, where and how to get things done.
- Olivia and Mark the first year is always a steep learning curve, I thank you for both your contributions at the meetings and look forward to you continuing next year

I am extremely confident that the community is in safe hands with you all members returning next year and continuing the great work that has been put in place over the past few years. I will miss our monthly catch ups and banter. Who knows I might just pop in to see how that oval thing is going!!!!

Another thing I will truly miss is working with the amazing staff we have here at Mater Christi Primary School. To Paula Nichols and Rebekah D'Souza who are the faces of the school, thanks for all the warm welcomes. To the amazing, outstanding ..... Amanda Burke, thank you for everything you do for everyone. To Robin Giles, you are a legend and I will miss you bounding out of your office to say good morning, nothing ever seems to get you down!!! To all the assistant staff who work around the school and make our community a positive place for our kids I say thanks. However, I must make special mention about 2 long term members of our school community. To Heidi Mann (11 yrs) and Joh Perez (8yrs) you will be sorely missed. You have been parents, P&F president and vice president, and then of course the most important job of all the school canteen manager and assistant. We are so very grateful for all you work, and we wish you both the very best for the future.

To our amazing teaching staff. Every year I get up here and say how lucky we are to have you, I feel like I repeat myself. So, this year I will steal a comment from one of the principals who was involved in the cyclic review last week. "You are extremely lucky here to have a group of staff who care so much for your students. Every class room we visited, we were made to feel welcome and the kids we engaged and had smiles on their faces. It feels like a wonderful place to work. This is not a direct quote but a summary!!! This cyclic review just completed by 4 members of the Catholic Education Office was once again a very positively affirming event for our community. It just outlines how lucky we are as parents to be sending our kids to a wonderful school, with wonderful people who do want the best for them. Thank you to all who participated – staff, students, parents, board members.

To the school executive led by Toni Kalat. Toni I am constantly amazed at how much you get done in the week. You keep this ship going in the right direction while just popping off to help CEWA in several working parties, jump in as a School Improvement Advisor in term 2, and then lead from the front with both our CDP and Oval negotiations. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you over the past 3 years as chairperson and I thank you for your continued support. One of the key factors to the ship staying on course is the wonderful work of our 2 assistant principals, Nicole Woodhouse and Julie Southwell. Thank you both for stepping in this year as acting principal in Toni's absence. We are very blessed to have you both here leading our school community. I will miss our term 4 interviews which have been a highlight for me in this role.

In 2020 we have a very small turnover of staff which just reaffirms that this is a great place to be. We will welcome a new canteen manager Wendy Scherini and welcome back a familiar face in Karen Piscopo as the canteen assistant. They have big shoes to fill but we are very confident they will seamlessly transition into the school community. We also welcome Monica Carrello who

will be the new pre-primary teacher. We say good bye to Hannah Kolbusz who has been with us for 3 years (2 in yr 1 and 1 in pp) she is moving to John XXIII as a pre-primary teacher.

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful relationship with the Mater Christi Parish. Once again it has been valuable to have Father Dat and Father Joe present at our board meetings this year to make sure we keep supporting one another in our faith journey. I know the children love having visits from you as part of their classroom experiences throughout the week and we appreciate you taking time out of your very busy schedules to do this. To Marina Haywood, how many thank you's do we need to say!! Our community is so lucky to have you, as you guide all of us on this journey and lead us through the sacramental programs.

Lastly to the P&F. I thought 2018 was a great year but I think you have surpassed it this year!!! Thanks to the energiser bunny President, Michelle Hall. Your contributions to our school community have been sensational and you always strive to get the best for our children. You have been rewarded with a nomination for the City of Cockburn Inspirational Volunteer Award. You have done an amazing job in having a positive influence on our school community and every event you touch seems to turn to gold. You are beautifully supported by your leadership team of Louise, Rebecca and Leah as well as the legion of class reps that are present at most events. The selfless dedication and tireless efforts to provide our community with resources to better our students education continually blows us away. For example, the 3 year contribution of P&F funds for the Nature Playground which is being installed at present. I would like to thank Leonie Jones who has been the board P&F rep for the past 2 years but will no longer continue in this role as her partnership with the school finishes. We wish you all the best Leonie and thank you for all the hard work in particular with the OVAL!!

Unfortunately, the community Oval continues to be a constant source of frustration. While we made significant steps early in the year and developed a healthy relationship with staff at the council, engaging in positive consultation for the future direction of the oval, things have slowed now. Cockburn Staff have moved on and we are having to build relationships again. The school stays committed to contributing \$\$ to the planned lakes upgrade so that our school community has a playground for our children to enjoy. We hope that the Heads of Agreement which must be signed by the Archbishop and endorsed by Catholic Education Office can move forward so we can complete a shared use agreement. However, we will need to continue to work on the water issue and bore water lease which appears to be slowing things down and unfortunately this is out of our control. This is something that we can't resolve and must be

addressed by both external parties for us to move forward. We are all hoping that 2020 is the year of the Oval.

Even though this is my last report I will still be around for a little bit longer you can't get rid of me that easy!! I have thoroughly enjoyed my 6 years and have learnt so much. I know that the board will continue to support the whole school community over the next few years as we move into exciting times with new buildings and a sparkling new playground!!! So, one last thank you to you all.

Thank you

Mark Clayden  
Board Chairperson 2019