



Good evening everyone,

On behalf of the Sacred Heart Catholic School Board, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Steve and the staff for all their hard work in 2019.

I would also like to thank the following members of the School Board for the contributions during the year:

- Sue Carr (Parish Rep)
- Zoe O'Brien (Secretary)
- Annette Syred (Treasurer)
- Graham Taylor
- Colin Fergusson
- Father Patrick

I would like to thank Sue and Zoe for their contributions during their time on the Board. A special thanks to Sue for her time and effort over the years. Thankyou for being Parish Rep and we will miss your knowledge and experience. I would like to welcome Fi Siegert (who replaces Sue) and Steve Lord who will take Zoe's position on the Board in 2020 and look forward to your involvement during your tenure.

During 2019, the Board oversaw the following additions to the school such as:

- Installation of a new LCD interactive whiteboard in the Kindy/ Pre Primary room
- Installation of the nature obstacle course
- And in serviced staff for Day 2 of the Big Write Program

The Board is also staying committed to the 4 classroom structure, believing that this is in the best interest for both students and staff.

In terms of capital works:

- The Board is committing to the refurbishment of the main toilet block

However, refurbishing the basketball courts and the plan of an extra classroom for the 3 Year Olds/Assembly room is currently unattainable unless significant funding/grants is provided.

Last year I spoke about the opportunities that Sacred Heart provided for our students. We have a plethora of experienced teachers, specialist teachers and provide extra teachers aides, assistance (outside of funding) to help support the students that need it. In short, these opportunities have a major impact on our budget. Out of the total expenditure for the year, wages account for approximately 80% of this expenditure.

Unless there is a significant increase of government funding, our current model budget is simply unsustainable in the long term. We are not in crisis talks, but what the Board has to ensure though, is that we make the changes where we can balance out the opportunities, we all wish to give the school – with what we simply can afford.

We all want stuff, but as I also said last year – spending needs to be made with a focus on a needs, rather than a wants approach.

The Board would also like to recognise the efforts put in from Steve over his time as Principal at Sacred Heart. Steve was offered and he has accepted a Principalship at St Benedicts School in Applecross, and we wish him all the best for the next chapter that awaits him.

What this means for Sacred Heart, is a fresh start with a fresh face with new ideas to keep progressing the school in an upward manner.

(Relief Principal to start the year to help find a suitable replacement)

Next year, Sacred Heart will begin with 50 enrolments from Pre Primary to Year Six.

Congratulations once again to our wonderful staff and the work that they have achieved in 2019. I hope everyone takes a well earned break and comes back fresh and ready for 2020.

Travis Robert - Chair