

Sacred Heart Catholic School

School Advisory Council

Chairs report

Good evening parents and friends.

This year has been my first as President of the School Advisory Council. With Covid still with us at the start of the year we were definitely unsure as to what lay ahead. But despite this, the Council has achieved a great deal.

These being –

1. Celebrated turning 110 years old and opening the history garden. One highlight of the day was cutting the ribbon by Tania Forward who was our first employee to achieve 30 years of service. Congratulation Tanya.
2. Painting of the front admin building,
3. Replacing the roof of the porch and starting front garden renovations which are still ongoing.
4. Completion of the bike track on the oval, which was funded by the P&F.
5. Replacement of the hot and cold water systems in the staff rooms
6. Upgrading the rear fence and realignment of the laneway, removal of trees which were creating a safety hazard
7. Commencement of the Cathy Walker approach to learning in the 3 year old kindy – yr 2 classes which required significant financial investment to run appropriately.
8. Passed both catholic education and state govt accreditations, with flying colours.

We continue to work from our 21-24 strategic plan with the main focus being on consolidating the budget as indicated. At this stage we have no major building projects planned for 23 however some smaller projects include

- Completion of the front garden as usable space for staff and student to use, as well as show off the beautiful façade of the school
- Upgrade of the little possums area with assistance from the P & F
- Upgrade of the school library into a learning hub with the assistance from the P&F
- Significant investment of school IT infrastructure planned for in 2023 being funded by the school and grant money.

Efforts to replace and upgrade the toilets and toilet area are still on going and I expect will continue into the future.

The school advisory council remains committed to the 4 class

structure. A fundamental part of this is ensuring that student numbers are maintained at a level where this is feasible. However, as Sacred heart continues to attract high quality teachers and a nurturing culture, I am sure that both of these will ensure the viability of the school for many years to come. I would like to acknowledge staff that left us in 2022, namely Maddison Jenkins, Fiona Dempsey and Taz Romero and recognise their significant efforts and valued contribution to the school.

I'd like to welcome new staff members to the school community – Ms Claire Newman, Ms Lucy Inman and Richard Domingo and Ardina Van De Ven – I hope they settle in well and find their time at Sacred heart rewarding.

The School's governance is overseen by the school advisory council and I sincerely thank those members who voluntarily give up their personal time and provide thoughtful contributions to assist in guiding the strategic direction for the school. I thank Ian Leeming, Dan Dempster, Sonia King Graham Taylor Lauren Carr (P&F rep) Fiona Siegert and Father Daniel Boyd. We say farewell to Graham Taylor (6 years) Sonia King (2 years) Dan Dempster (2 years) and wish them well.

Education is the backbone of any meaningful community and our school proudly takes on this role through its quality teachers, and support staff, and do so in tandem with our parents and caregivers. I sometimes wonder if some parents hold a mistaken belief that the school runs to a very high standard already and their input isn't required or necessary. But all schools need parents – to attend school functions, to help put at busy bees, to volunteer their time on P&F fundraising events or join in the Council. All contributions, no matter how small, together make a difference. It will be our children who benefit the most from parents actively participating in our school community. I welcome any and all efforts and thank you in advance.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly I recognise Mr Chris Burns for his significant hard work and dedication to our school. Chris and his family are clearly invested in the Goomalling community and this has been a point of difference in his leadership. Chris is to be congratulated on a truly admirable job in navigating the school through another successful year and I look forward to working with him in 2023.

Steve Lord