

2020 AGM Report

2020 has been an interesting year – we set out with very big goals for what we wanted to achieve as a board, but Covid has definitely challenged how we could come together as a board, and the relevance of what we were working on.

We started with six sub committees, each focussed on a particular area or project of importance to the school, in no particular order, these were:

- School Masterplan
- Play Space Renewal
- Milo's House
- Social Club & Parent Engagement
- Marketing
- Sustainability

What is really heartening, is that even in a year where we have only been able to come together and meet physically twice, and the kids haven't even been at school for half of the year, as a board we've still been able to create forward momentum.

The big wins for us this year have been:

- Progressing to being ready to engage an architect to develop the Masterplan for the school's grounds & facilities.
- Developing a pilot program for an innovative pre-prep literacy program.
- Maintaining and enhancing the school's profile in the local community
- And maintaining the social connectedness of our school community during a year where physical distancing has been the norm.

Each sub-committee has prepared a detailed report on their activity across the year and I encourage you to read these to get a detailed insight into the work that the Education Board is focussed on.

On a personal note, I'm stepping down from the board this evening, after 3 years of being Chair, and being on the board for just about all of my time at St Josephs.

Working together with Mary, Andrea, and now Fiona, and all of the board members over the past few years has been a really rewarding experience for me – thank you.

We have developed how we work as a board group by introducing sub-committees, and project committees, and the way we work together as a parent group by introducing the Social Club and Parent Class Reps – all of these changes have been focussed on building community, involvement and creating a range of opportunities for people to contribute to the school community.

I feel very proud of what we've achieved, and I wanted to recap some of the things we've done and achieved, particularly in the last three years to really remind each of you what an

incredible contribution you make to our school by volunteering your time to be on the Education Board

Over the past three years here are some of the projects that the board has been involved in:

- redesign of the uniform
- landscaping of the front yard
- landscaping of the rear yard
- Launch of the Social Club
- Establishing our network of Parent Class reps
- Opening up our school to partnerships and engagement with our broader community like partnerships with Jellis Craig
- Refining our logo and marketing materials
- Supporting Mary with the launch of the Miss Polly Purple Reading Mornings
- Commencement of the Master Planning process
- Looked into an ELC, pivoted to establishing the Milo's House concept
- Our marketing committee has worked hard on building our enrolments through social media, billboards, and constant effort
- And, a new gate

All of these are incredibly worthwhile projects and all of them have only been achieved with the contribution of your time and expertise. So, for anyone who is thinking about volunteering, I urge you to just do it – you really can and will make a difference.

Thank you so much for your support during my time as Chair – I wish you and everyone at St Joseph's all the best – this is a very special school community, with a wonderful principal, dedicated teachers, and the one and only Carmel.

I wish you all success in the big & exciting projects that are in train – the future for St Joseph's is incredibly exciting and it's a wonderful community to be a part of, and place for kids to be educated.

Carlinea Williamson
Chair, Education Board 2020