



## 2023 11 20 ANNUAL COLLEGE COMMUNITY MEETING

### PRINCIPAL REPORT

We have had many meaningful and significant opportunities for our Bosco students and staff in our ninth year and look forward to our milestone 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2024. We certainly have beautiful buildings such as the de Sales Library Resource Centre and the soon to be ready Mazzarello Sport and Recreation Centre, followed next year by our Bosco Canteen/Café. But, more than ever in this very challenging environment for young people, we need to be a lot more than “bricks and mortar”. We need to embrace and live the Salesian Charism of “a home that welcomes, a parish that evangelises, a College that prepares for life and a playground where friends meet and enjoy themselves”. We need to ensure that the education that our Bosco students receive is a Catholic humanising one to ensure our students continue to be nurtured in their learning to achieve to their God given potential. As a staff, Advisory Council, Friends of SJBC Committee and Bosco Community, St John’s Bosco’s “Loving Kindness” needs to be at the centre of everything we do.

I am delighted that some of our staff have had opportunities to learn and understand more about the Salesian Charism and way of teaching. Mrs Vanessa Byrne and Miss Kalinda Knight went on our first Immersion to Samoa with other colleagues from Bosco Colleges around Australia. Miss Chrystal Leavers won the inaugural Lynn Martin Scholarship and visited Colleges in Melbourne and Adelaide. I am looking forward to many more of our staff and students working and learning in collaboration with our Salesian friends to understand and use the teachings of St John Bosco, to enable every student at Bosco to flourish. Don Bosco was convinced that kindness was essential and like him, we all need to become better examples of kindness to each other. A huge thank you to all our Bosco staff for providing wonderful educational experiences for the young people in their care to ensure that Bosco students “know that they are loved”. We see many examples of these educational opportunities on our FB page, thanks to Mrs Maggie Burton and her Team.

I am very blessed to have a wise and gifted Leadership Team of: Mrs Renee Lea, Miss Chrystal Leavers, Mrs Michelle O’Neill, Miss Miranda Dempsey, Mrs Maggie Burton, Mrs Michelle Grove, Mr Tommy Ting and Mr Steve Johnson who collaborate with me to strategically grow our College to Year 11 in 2024 and Year 12 in 2025. Thank you to our Leadership Team who continue to work passionately in a very demanding challenging environment. Our Deans of students, including Catholic Identity and Mission will be called Deputy Principals in 2024.

Thank you to our Advisory Council: Chair Miss Erin Parry, Deputy Chair Mr Brett Mallott, Treasurer Mr Daniel Fonseca, Secretary Mrs Cassandra Carr, St Francis Xavier Rep to the Advisory Council Mrs Wendy Mongan, Friends of St John Bosco Rep Mrs Siminette Meyer and Mr Joe Francis for the advice and support they give to me as the Principal. Thank you to our Friends of SJBC Committee: Chair Mrs Kylie O'Neill, Deputy Chair Ms Jennifer Hebden, Secretary Miss Amanda Old, Treasurer Mrs Belinda Law, Friends Rep to the Advisory Council Mrs Siminette Meyer and Committee Member Danial Newbey for the Friend Raising and Fundraising that they do to benefit the students at Bosco. I would also like to thank our many class, parent and grandparent volunteers who continue to work together to make St John Bosco the special community it is.

We wish Mrs Vanessa Byrne who in commenced in 2015, Mrs Margaret Crommy (2018), Mrs Melissa Barlow (2019), Ms Jenny-Lee Granger (2020), Miss Georgina Millard (2021), Ms Felicity Chandler (2022), Mrs Denusha Amerasinghe (2022), Miss Jordana Crane (2022) and Ms Maggie Speelman (2023), many blessings as they take on new adventures in 2024 and beyond. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to building this flourishing environment and using your gifts and talents and "Fruits of the Holy Spirit" to bring joy to the students in your care at Bosco.

Vanessa did her Teaching Practicum in 2015 at Bosco, leading our very first Choir at our Blessing and Opening and commenced as a Primary Teacher at Bosco in 2016. Vanessa has worked in the Primary years, in Pre-Primary and Year 3 and has excelled in specialist positions in Numeracy, Music and Visual Art. Vanessa will always be remembered for composing "Heart in Heaven", a hymn dedicated to St John Bosco.

Margaret joined us as Student Learning Support Coordinator in 2018 and has expertly led our funding applications and NCCD data collection over the years. In 2019, Margaret showed her passion and expertise by mentoring a younger Teacher who was teaching our first group of Year 6 students. Margaret will be on LSL in Semester 1 2024 and will then retire to enjoy her many passions and friendships.

Jenny joined us on work experience in 2020 and then worked in OSHC since then, sharing her previous knowledge of working in learning support with staff in our OSHC Space. We wish Jenny every success in the next part of your journey.

Felicity has been teaching Science, STEAM and Hass since 2022 at Bosco and has also been very involved in the Enrichment Program. We wish Felicity every success at Southern River College in 2024.

Georgina has worked as an Education Assistant at Bosco since 2021 in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 and has always shown loving kindness to every student whom she works with. We wish Georgina every adventure in her "Gap Year" and look forward to seeing her doing relief at Bosco in the future.

Denusha has worked in Kindergarten since 2022, sharing her love of learning in the early years. We wish Denusha every success in her future study.

Jordana has worked in the early years since 2022 in Kindergarten, show casing plenty of skills and enthusiasm and joy that will assist her in her teaching career.

Maggie has shown her leadership in the pastoral caring way that she interacts with her Year 7.6 Community Hub students and in teaching English in Secondary. We wish her every success in a middle leadership role at Harrisdale SHS and we will all miss Wally, our Bosco care dog.

Mrs Kelly Rihan will change roles next year and work in a part-time capacity at the College. Thank you, Kelly for growing Primary PE as the PE Specialist, being the Year 9 Coordinator in 2022 and the Head of HPE in 2023 and of course all the work she does to inspire sport, especially Netball at Bosco and ACC.

Mrs Maureen Johnson will change roles next year and work in a part-time capacity at the College in WPL. Thank you, Maureen, for sharing your expertise, knowledge and wisdom and establishing our first Pathways Program at Bosco in 2023. Our Bosco students have benefitted greatly this year and the enjoyment they are getting from “Try a Trade” is gold.

We also have a number of other Bosco staff who will work in a different part of the College in 2024. That is the beauty of being in a Pre-Kindy to Year 12 Catholic College.

We wish Mrs Justine Bennett and Mr Nick Magry plenty of joyous adventures in their year of leave.

We are delighted that Father Mark and Deacon Errol have been able to spread the ‘Joy of the Gospel’ amongst the students and staff, here at Bosco, by celebrating Masses, Liturgies and engaging with students. Our Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 students were overjoyed to be able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacrament of Eucharist and Sacrament of Confirmation. Our Mass for the Birthday of St John Bosco at St Francis Xavier and Liturgy at the College were again a highlight for us. It is wonderful that our Bosco Choirs have an opportunity to sing at the Sacramental Masses. We had the very special honour of hosting the Relic Statue of St John Bosco at the College in September, marking a significant moment in our celebration of one hundred years of Salesian presence in Australia, with the first Salesians arriving in Fremantle in 1923. We were delighted that some members of St Francis Xavier Parish were able to attend and enjoy morning tea in the new Staff Retreat. Thank you to the St Francis Xavier Parish Community and Sister Lisette for all their support, wisdom, guidance and prayers that they continue to give to our Bosco Community.

I am delighted to introduce 26 new talented staff who will join our Bosco Team in 2024:

**Administration (Uniform Shop):**

Mrs Elsie Hudson

**Property and Maintenance:**

Mr Ian Dober and Mr Lindsay England

**Arts Technician:**

Mrs Lisa Parker

**Primary Education Assistant:**

Mr Cooper Smith

**Primary Teaching:**

Ms Amanda Gooijer and Mrs Grace Smith

**Primary Middle Leadership:**

Student Learning Support Coordinator: Ms Peta Nicolaou

**Secondary Teaching:**

Mrs Eliza Knapman, Mr Peter Celenza, Mr Luke Henderson, Miss Giorgia Priede,

Mr Mathew Coughlin, Miss Kaitlin Thorpe, Mr Marc de Lima, Mr Bruce Martin, Mr James Cherry,

Ms Belinda Pinker, Miss Annalise Thompson, Ms Joan Mackin, Mr Asher Wescombe and Miss Sahitya Subramanian

**Secondary Leadership:**

Head of Pathways: Miss Sarah Fogarty

Head of Year 7: Mrs Karen Saxon

Head of HPE: Mr Matthew Price

**College Leadership:**

Deputy of Catholic Identity and Mission: Mr Andrew Donaldson

Thank you to all our Bosco families for sharing the “JOY IN LEARNING” with us this in 2023 and allowing the Bosco staff to work with you as partners in educating your children. We look forward to a collaborative partnership with our Bosco Community in 2024.

The Team at St John Bosco wish you a peaceful and joyous Advent Season and ask Our Loving Father to bless our Bosco families this Christmas, as we look forward to celebrating the Birth of Jesus. We especially think of our Bosco families whose loved ones have passed away this year. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Jih and his family.

Yours in Christ

Kevin Sheehy

**Principal**