



## BOARD CHAIRPERSON REPORT 2017

As we conclude our third year of operation at St John Bosco College, this Annual Community Meeting is a significant occasion in the life of the College.

At St John Bosco College, we encourage positive and strong relationships with our parent Community and our Annual Community Meeting is an opportunity to come together. Tonight, is an opportunity to look back on 2017 with you all and to elect both the Friends of St John Bosco Executive and the Board for the coming year. For those new to the College community we certainly hope you find tonight insightful.

The current Board was formed two years ago with the addition of both Brian and Katherine and Helen last year. We have continued to work together to address a plethora of different areas: policies, planning, finance, strategy to name but a few. The members of the Board are:

Gayle Emmerson	Board Chairperson
Fr Kaz	Parish Priest
Helen Lesniak	Parish Representative
Kevin Sheehy	Principal
Pamela Taylor	Treasurer
Rachel Hingley-Wilson	Secretary
Brian Mutete	
Tracey Marshall	
Steve Doody	
Katherine Jolley	FSJB Rep to the College Board

As a Board we have been busy with the planning of the next stage of the College build. After meetings with Catholic Education and submitting our application in early 2017 we received confirmation earlier this year that the funds for the next stage were confirmed. The architects have been working with both our planning committee and our principal to ensure the designs are suited to St John Bosco's needs. This has included visiting other schools/colleges to determine the right approach for the College and of course taking any of the good ideas we have seen and implementing them in the design moving forward.

There have been changes to the funding system this year and both our Treasurer Pamela and our Finance Officer Trish have been working to identify how that affects the College. There are also changes to the finance system pending which will cause an increased workload next year but our team have already begun to review those changes. Pamela will discuss some of this in her Treasurer's report.

The Board, Staff, Friends of St John Bosco and our College community have all provided input into the College strategic plan and we should see the output from that early next year.

I was fortunate to attend the College Chair Conference midyear and it was a wonderful experience to share knowledge with other Board Chairs and get insight from Catholic Education on their view of the progression of Catholic Education in WA. It made me appreciate more the community we have at St John Bosco College and how we have the continued support and guidance from a range of people within the College community. I think I state this every year but it is worth stating again the committed members are all from different backgrounds brought together by the common goal of having the students' interests at heart. We are lucky to have the knowledge and expertise of both Father Kaz and Mr Sheehy to support us.

With a year of no building work and no audits in 2017 it provided a great opportunity to build on the great College community. Thank you, Sharon and her Executive Team, and all members of the Friends of St John Bosco for everything that has been achieved this year. The fundraising activities have been extremely successful and well supported by the Community. These fundraising efforts provide valuable resources for our children's learning journeys and are truly appreciated. I would encourage you to provide your support to the new Executive Team in 2018.

From a College perspective, 2017 began with the wonderful news that the Out of School Hours Care Service received an Exceeding National Quality Standard in its audit, which considering OSHC has only been in operation for 2 years, was a massive achievement for the team. The additional space for Years 4-6 has been greatly utilised by all years and has made a tremendous difference to the structure of classes and creative spaces where children can be more creative. I am sure all the children will say their favourite addition is the College oval which has been fully utilised this year with the Sports carnival and the Inter-schools carnival to be held this week.

Thank you to Mr Kevin Sheehy. He has continued to provide vision and strategic insight to St John Bosco College and has made decisions based wholly on the interests of the students. Next year we begin another building stage and your support to the College leadership team will be invaluable during this time.

The dedicated and loyal teachers, education assistants, our Outside School Hours Care educators, and admin staff have had a wonderful year and I am very excited for the inclusion of music and language into our curriculum next year which I am sure our children are too. I would like to acknowledge and welcome the new staff that are joining St John Bosco College in 2018.

We also thank Fr Kaz for his spiritual leadership and the support he displays to the principal, staff, students and families of St John Bosco College. This year saw the largest Sacrament of Reconciliation received by the St John Bosco Year 3 students and First Holy Communion for our Year 4 students. The support given by Fr Kaz has been wonderful.

My appreciation is extended to all the Board members who have worked together, constructively for the past 12 months. I myself, am not re-electing for 2018 so I would like to thank you all for your support and inspiration throughout the last two years and wish you every success for the next 2 years.

May I take this opportunity to wish all people gathered here this evening a wonderful conclusion to the College year and a Holy Christmas.

Gayle Emmerson

November 20 2017