



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

BROOME

Board Chairperson's Report - 2020.

On January 1, 2020, the Catholic Education Office of WA (CEOWA) incorporated to become Catholic Education WA (CEWA) Limited. The St Mary's College Board entered its usual role in February of this year expecting that we might be operating under a new constitution with varied governance responsibilities. Over approximately the past 10 months, the Board has been performing under the original constitution, however throughout that time, members have been aware of a number of draft changes being proposed to its constitution in line with changes made to the corporate structure and decision-making responsibilities of CEWA.

It is anticipated that in 2021, all Catholic College Boards working under a Transitional Terms Sheet introduced by CECWA Ltd and will be acting specifically as Advisory Councils to assist the Principal with visionary approaches to strategic planning, developing long-term financially independent goals, and providing support and governance oversight whilst continuing to leave the day-to-day responsibility of running of the College to the Principal and the Leadership Teams. In light of these likely changes, our Board has been working towards the introduction of a new inclusive agenda to complement these advisory responsibilities – allowing members to more actively engage in contributing to the overall strategic direction of the College, whilst drawing on the raft of expertise, diversity, and knowledge that exists amongst these elected individuals. I consider these changes to be exciting for the dynamics of our Board, allowing an opportunity for those volunteering members to mature professionally whilst contributing to the St Mary's community.

At the commencement of the school year, the Board welcomed Ms Catherine Tribble, and Ms Francesca Quayle as new members in February to complement the departure in 2019 of long-standing and dedicated contributors Ms Sue Ralph (Treasurer) and Ms Kate McMahon (Board Secretary). Ms Mandi Dia, Ms Eugenia Leslie-George, and Mr Tony Hutchinson (2019 Board Chair) renominated as 2020 members, and Ms Katrina Comito nominated as a full member after acting in the capacity of P&F Association Invitee for many years. Fr Alexis this year continued taking on the responsibility of Parish Ex-Officio, and the Board was supported by St Mary's Business Manager – Ms Amy Hyett, and of course the College Principal Ms Carol Bell.

As nominated Chairperson for 2020, I would like to thank Mr Tony Hutchinson, previous Chair, for his contribution in 2019. Tony had indicated towards the end of 2019 that his work commitment and ongoing business opportunities might hinder his ability to perform the role of Chairperson this year in a manner that he expected of himself, and I commend him on his honesty in making that decision for the benefit of the Board and College.

I would like to especially thank our incumbent Secretary, Catherine Tribble for taking on the role and making it hers in 2020. Catherine, with a strong background in Human Resources and Administration has elevated the quality of material generated by the Board to a new level and adopted immediately the systems provided by the school to distribute all information to members in a timely and professional manner.

I would also like to make special mention of Ms Mandi Dia who nominated to take on the role of Board Treasurer from Mrs Sue Ralph, knowing her time commitments would be



stretched by doing so.

Ms Amy Hyett, as our Colleges Business Manager continues to provide unwavering support with the utmost of professionalism to the financial management of the College, along with overseeing the delivery of new and improved administrative and IT initiatives for the benefit of our students and staff. On behalf of myself and fellow Board members, we would like to especially thank you Amy for the way you conduct yourself each year, particularly in 2020 in light of the administrative and budgetary challenges unexpectedly imposed on our College as a result of the impacts to state and federal government funding, and policy changes introduced through CEWA, and of course COVID.

In her second year as Principal at St Mary's College, I would like to thank Carol for the way she mitigated the impact of COVID-19 on the staff and student's safety and wellbeing, and the school's education delivery and remote learning strategy. Carol championed these initiatives to counteract the abrupt changes we had to make due to state and federal school closure policies and have continued to maintain that level of commitment to every staff member and student throughout the year. I would also like to thank you for your support in adopting changes to the way the Board contributes to the success of the College. Having been involved personally, along with all the Board members in your recent professional development review, I look forward to working with you in 2021 as you continue to enhance your leadership skills and capabilities.

I have had the opportunity over many years to witness the contributions made by many parents and guardians to the wellbeing of the school and its students via the way they continue to volunteer their increasingly finite personal time. On a sad note, our College Board, the P&F Association, our school and the wider Broome community will say farewell at the end of the year to Ms Katrina Comito, her husband Paul, and their children and our college students Lili and Tex who are leaving Broome to begin a new chapter in their lives in the south of WA. Katrina and Paul have, for a very long time, been advocates for positive change to our College community, either through their tireless efforts volunteering their time for school events and functions, through to donating prizes and gifts for school fundraising and local charity causes. Katrina has dedicated an immense amount of time and effort over many years to our College Board and the P&F Association, and she epitomises the true definition of a person who puts the interest of others before herself. On behalf of your fellow Board members, and the wider St Mary's College community, we thank-you Katrina (and Paul) for your contribution to the betterment of our students learning opportunities and school's progression and development, and we wish you all the very best of luck when you leave Broome. You will always be welcome back here at the College and in the community.

As a snapshot of what to expect in 2021, we hope to be able to officially open our completed Stage's 10 & 11 of the Capital Development Plan, and equally as important, witness the commencement of our recently approved Stage 12 development works. The approval of such a valuable project, along with the expansion of our 3-stream primary class model is testament to the faith CEWA have in the direction St Mary's College is heading, and the continued need for us to deliver high quality education within our Catholic community.

The Board, in conjunction and consultation with Carol, Amy, and the College Leadership Team will work together to review our Capital Development Plan for Stages 13-15 and beyond to ensure it caters for our changing educational and enrolment needs. Coupled with the provision of an updated Strategic Plan beyond 2021, we will commit to ensure our community draws comfort in knowing that their child's education and growth will be sound and develop safely in the hands of a dedicated and caring team of



College leaders, teachers, mentors and student support staff.

Finally, to our board members renominating for a further term, and to our new members nominating for the first time, I look forward to welcoming you back in February of 2021 to pick up where we left off this year, with a new outlook on the way we contribute more to the ongoing performance and enviable reputation of St Mary's College.

Wishing you all a very holy, safe, relaxing and joyous Christmas and New Year period.

Patrick Moase

Chairperson – St Mary's College Board