

# Annual General Meeting 2016



*Principal's Report - Carmel O'Shaughnessy*

*Board Chairs Report - Rick Goodman*

*P&F Association Presidents Report - Belinda Stewart*



**St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Principal's Report**

Wednesday, 30 November 2016

Welcome to our 2016 Annual General Meeting, thank you for taking the time to join us.

We celebrated our second birthday in July arriving here on site at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School in July 2014, during this short period we have been evolving.

I was here quite early not that long ago, wandering around looking and thinking about what needs to be achieved in the immediate future and long term. I was very much reminded of our growth period. Whilst there will be changes over the next two years they will be minor, this will be our chrysalis stage then we recommence building. Yes, we will transform into a beautiful "butterfly" a finished school. However we need patience! It will happen.

As a community we have worked not only for the children in our care, but through them we are also building a strong community. We have many parents who are unable to attend Board or P&F Association Committees however, they are just as involved behind the scenes; I have been fortunate to be able to call on the advice and support of several "dads" and I thank you!

To our current Board Members yes, we have been involved in some robust and interesting conversations. This year it has been very evident that as a School Board we are evolving and with the support of our consultant, we will be up for the task to work on the Capital Development Plan.

Bless the parents involved in the Parents & Friends Association you are amazing, being part of this committee requires the participants to do mental gymnastics, physical labour and a commitment. This group too has come in to its own this year- the activities have already been voted on for 2017! Another initiative has been to introduce Question and Answer time with the Principal. This enables the correct and required information to be disseminated back out in the community.

Congratulations and many blessings to Belinda Stewart, for taking on the coordinator's role for our playgroup. Belinda organised everything and continues to ensure the parents and children have an enjoyable experience. Hopefully as we grow, some of the children will enrol in our kindy. In the meantime, it is a wonderful opportunity for the parents to get to know other families and take the time to enjoy their children during activities and to play with them.

Our enrolments for 2017 have exceeded my prediction back in October by ten families. This is very much due to our parents sharing with the wider community the benefits of being part of St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School Community. The majority of our new families either know someone who knows someone, accosted one of our parents in the shopping centre or have been on the website. The 'piece de resistance' is visiting the school and seeing our beautiful happy children.

Thank you to our staff we are evolving; professional development, professional dedicated experiences and quality teaching and learning continues to enhance the benefits of the children in our care. It is time to bring together all that we do well into procedures and processes so that the culture we are building continues in strength as we welcome new staff on board.

Father John, whilst we do not see him as often as we would like, is very much supportive of our community. We thank him for attending our liturgies and spending time with the children. We must take up the challenge now and make 2017 our year for role modelling and involving our children in the importance of attending the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday. It is our responsibility to embed the weekly ritual for our children – we are called to be like Jesus and teach the children Religious Education, we ask you, the parents to support us by giving the children the opportunity to attend Sunday mass.

Principals in Catholic Schools undergo Principal Reviews throughout their contracts. Staff, School Boards and the Parents and Friends Association office bearers are involved in the process by completing questionnaires and attending interviews. I am humbled to know that I have received total and unwavering support from all involved. I celebrate and thank you for the support and recognition of my commitment. This gives me great strength in making decisions which always commences with the question, 'Will this or does this, make a positive difference to the children in our care?'

Finally, on behalf of the staff at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, we thank you for your partnership, friendship and support throughout 2016. We wish you a Holy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year.

Please join us for light refreshments in the staffroom.

God bless you all.

*Carmel J O'Shaughnessy*

Carmel O'Shaughnessy  
Principal  
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

**St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Board Chairs Report**

2016 was another exciting year for the School Board;

I would like to thank our School Board Members for the time they have put in to making the St Elizabeth's School Board a success for another year.

Mark Stewart came onto the Board (as a secondment) for 2016 and I think he has enjoyed himself immensely, he has also been a valuable member during this time because of his wealth of knowledge.

Our Board for 2016 consisted of the following;

Trish Ryan - Treasurer, Claudia Fazari – Secretary, Michelle Colavecchio and Dan Button.

Our Parish Representative was Trish Sykes, and our P&F Board Representative was Kerry Hunter. Making up the School Board are Father John Daly, our Parish Priest and the Principal, Carmel O'Shaughnessy.

Trish Ryan and Claudia Fazari have completed their first term of two years and they are not nominating for re-election. We thank them most sincerely for their time and commitment on the Board.

In 2017 we commence our third year of School Board duties and we will continue to remain open and transparent to all. However, at times the parents must understand that there are certain aspects and facets of the information we are privy to that is not for general broadcast or dissemination to parents. We hope you understand that some things are privileged information and there are many things that even the School Board Members are not privy to, in the day to day running of a Catholic Primary School. I have again enjoyed my time on the School Board and it is my wish to continue to do so and I hope our current and new Board Members enjoy the experience as much as I have.

Currently the School Board is working towards the following Capital Works;

- Enclosing the undercover area,
- Enclosing the conversation pit and increasing the lawn area,
- Boundary fence between the lawn area (oval) and the car park,
- Relocation of rubbish bins to the car park for easy access,
- Daily fitness equipment on the oval area,
- Shades along the lawn area (oval),
- Cubby for the ECE play area, and
- Purchasing furniture for the year two classroom.
- It may be some time before we commence Stage 2 of the Primary School, as at this time we believe that the new buildings may commence at the beginning of 2018. However, this is subject to enrolments and classroom availability of our students.

### **Finances**

We close the 2016 school year with a balanced Budget including reserves for the January salaries. The Board accepted and passed the 2017 Annual Budget and we expect that it will cover all foreseeable costs.

The School Board again reminds parents and families that if they find the fees unmanageable, I request you to contact the principal to work these matters out.

## **Principal Review**

According to the Principal's Contract, they are reviewed in their third and fifth year of their term. This year Carmel's Review was conducted in Term Three involving staff and parents on the P & F Association Committee and the School Board Members. Carmel was advised by the Executive Director, Tim McDonald, that the review clearly identified that Carmel has the total support of the staff, parents, the P & F Committee and of course the Board. Congratulations Carmel!

## **New Staff Members for 2017**

We welcome the following staff members to St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School Community  
Simone Passera, kindergarten Teacher.

Vinaya Sequeira, year one full time Education Assistant.

Allison Burgess, pre-primary, Education Assistant.

Krystal Nguyen, year two part time Education Assistant.

We wish Jenni Brown, well in the future. Jenni resigned to take care of her father.

On behalf of the School Board, I wish to thank the staff for their continued commitment this year and hope you will be well rested over holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2017. We commend you for the continued dedication you have shown to the children throughout 2016.

I, as a non-parent, see the remarkable difference in your children, from the commencement of the school year, and I know that you are all proud of the progress made by your individual children.

## **Acknowledgements**

On behalf of the School Board Members for 2016, I would like to thank the Parents' and Friends' Association Office Bearers and your Committee for the hard work you undertake each year. Your contribution to building community and financially supporting the school for resources is commendable and we thank you for all that you do!

To Carmel O'Shaughnessy, our Principal what can I say; She is Wonder Woman, amazing, wonderful, caring, bossy!!!

*Rick Goodfield*

Rick Goodfield  
School Board Chair  
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

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**P & F Association President's Report**

2016 has seen another successful year for our P & F Association Committee. We commenced 2016 with our first activity; new kindy families morning tea on the first day of School. It was a great success and helped our new families feel part of our community from their first day. This will now become a yearly tradition, with plans already underway for our 2017 morning tea.

Our very enthusiastic group of parents have run several events throughout the year including; a Masters BBQ, Bunnings BBQ, Disco and our upcoming Christmas Party.

In 2017 we have five (5) fundraisers planned; Wheelbarrow of Wine in Term 1, Family Movie Day and Lapathon in Term 2, Quiz Night for Term 3 and Living Fundraisers in Term 4. In addition to this the P & F Association Committee will also coordinate the Annual Disco and Christmas Party.

Our current Bank Balance is \$4336.89, which is an amazing feat when you consider we only have fifty-nine students enrolled at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School. At our first P & F Association Meeting in 2017 we will decide how much money we will donate to the school budget to support teaching resources for the benefit of our children.

I would like to say a 'Big Thank You' to Helen our Secretary, John our Treasurer, Joan our Chairperson, Kerry our P & F Board Representative and Catherine our PFFWA Representative for all their help and support during 2016.

I would also like to thank all the parents who came to our P & F Association Meetings and for offering their support and work hard to make these events a huge success!

Also a thank you to all the parents who support our fundraisers by buying items or volunteering their time to help. Finally, to the staff who are always a great support at any of our events. Without everyone's help these events would not be possible!

*Belinda Stewart*

Belinda Stewart  
P & F President - P&F Association  
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School