



SACRED HEART COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

Welcome to this first report from the School Advisory Council.

The first semester of 2015 has been a very active one for Sacred Heart and the School Advisory Council has been kept busy with three main areas of focus throughout this period:

- The School Improvement Framework Review (SIF)
- The 155th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
- The Launching of the “Towards 2024” Masterplan.

At the meeting on Thursday 4 June, the Advisory Council were very proud to receive the glowing external **SIF Report** presented by one of our appointed reviewers, Mr Tony Frizza. SHC was recognised as a high performing school with a clearly enunciated vision and actively living the mercy charism. The Council congratulates Anna Negro, her leadership team and all staff for the effort and detail of the school’s Self Reflection Report and for the excellent results that have been achieved over the past four years.

The 155th Anniversary Dinner took place in McAuley Hall on Thursday 16 April. This dinner was a collaborative effort of the Council, the Alumni and Parent Power. With her wealth of experience, **Kath Walsh**, the Development Manager and member of Council put together a committee and a fine cohort of volunteers for the evening. From feedback from the night, we can say the night was a great success and a wonderful celebration of the Anniversary. In addition a considerable sum was raised for the Scholarship Gift Fund.

At this Dinner, Anna Negro launched our College **Masterplan**. After a long and detailed consultation process with all members of the SHC Community and, in particular, the hard work of the Planning and Facilities Committee, the Masterplan, drawn up by the architectural firm McGlashan Everist, was approved by Mercy Education. Work is now underway for Stage 1, the Court Precinct. Further details re this building program will be in the next report.

The School Advisory Council has and will continue to undergo a number of structural changes this year. Three new Board members have joined the Council this year: **Philip Anglin** has joined and is a valuable addition to the Finance Committee; he has recently taken over as Chair. Philip is a partner and senior Investment Advisor with Evans and Partners and a current parent. We have also been fortunate in gaining the services of **Anthony Baldasso**, the Principal of the architectural firm, Baldasso – Cortese. Anthony has strong connections with the school and he will assist us with our forthcoming building program. He is a member of the Planning and Facilities Committee. As the newly appointed Chair of Council and a strong background working in education, I am also new to the Board and I am honoured to have this opportunity to return to my much-loved SHC which I attended from Prep to Matriculation 50 years ago when the school population was less than half of today’s numbers.

At our recent meeting in June, we thanked and farewelled **Stephen Fernandes**. Stephen has been a member of the College Council for the past 5 years and a member of our Finance Committee. We

thank Stephen for his contribution to the Council; he will be missed at our meetings not only for his financial expertise but also his good humour and laughter. Stephen will continue in his role on the Finance Subcommittee until the end of the year.

Whilst reports from the Finance and Planning and Facilities Committees have played a central role with the council, all of the subcommittees have been productive. The **Policy Subcommittee**, a most industrious group, has presented a constant stream of policies for ratification to the Council at every meeting; we have looked at twelve to date. These play an important role in the running of all areas of the school and can be found on the college website. The **Scholarship Subcommittee** is in the process of planning a strategic meeting in which they will examine the vision, ethos and goals of the committee and establish a regular review process for equity scholarships.

Our representatives of the **Parent Power** and **Alumni** Associations have kept us informed of all of the ongoing activities at SHC. These associations support our school so well and the Council thank you all for your enthusiasm and energy and readiness to volunteer. I have been personally overwhelmed witnessing the wonderful school network welcoming new parents at the Beginning of Year Mass and working behind the scenes at the Anniversary Dinner.

Whilst a school caring for the educational needs and values of almost 1400 students has many challenges and continuous improvement in upholding our mercy values and achieving our key objectives and behaviours is always our focus, the past 6 months serving on the SHC Advisory Council has been comforting. The Principal, the Leadership team and the staff are doing an excellent job. The care and concern shown by our students in their overall general behaviour and the numerous social justice projects they are undertaking, together with high academic performance, is testimony to this. We, as an advisory council will do our best to support the Principal in maintaining and improving upon this high standard.

Cate Slattery

Council Chair