

Our Lady Star of the Sea School Education Board Chairpersons Report 2019.



School Education Board Members, 2019

Parish Priest	Father Darien Sticklen
Principal	Kerryn Sells
Deputy Principal	Paul Anderson
Chair and Parent Rep Barwon Heads (2016-2019)	Michael Sheridan (Retiring)
Board secretary 2019	Catherine Sampson (Retiring)
Staff Rep 2019	Alison Healy
PFA Rep 2019	Mary McCartney
Co-opted Parish Rep	Sister Nola Morrissy
Co-opted Grounds (2018 -2019)	Mark Monahan
Parent Rep Ocean Grove (2017 -2019)	Briony Darcy
Parent Rep Ocean Grove (2018-2020)	Meg Poirier
Parent Rep Ocean Grove (2018-2020)	Peter McKinnon
Parent Rep Barwon Heads (2018-2020)	Andrew Flanders

My fellow board members,

It is my great pleasure to provide a Chairpersons report for the 2019 School Education Board (SEB) for 2019.

2019 started as a year of significant change with the first year of our new leadership team - principal Kerryn Sells and deputy principal Paul Anderson. This was accompanied with Fr Darien completing his first year in the position of Parish Priest.

This transition has been seamless with all the leadership team easing into their new roles and making them 'their own'.

The year roared into action with the inaugural 'Earthfest' in February which was a great community success and brought our school into the public consciousness in a very positive way, with Sue Constable driving this initiative ably supported by many others.

We also welcomed a new board member in Sr Nola Morrissy as a Parish Co-opted member who will continue to strengthen our links with our Parish.

By the start of term 2, our focus was on what we envisaged what Our Lady Star of the Sea community and school will look like over the coming 5-10 years.

In March we reviewed projections of our potential school pupil role with a figure of 640-650 being the peak in around 8-15 years c.2027-2034.

This helped frame the decisions we would have to make regarding the school building design and accommodation needs. These discussions could occur on the back of our successful allocation of funds and election commitments from the Labour 'Andrews's government' and prioritisation through Catholic Education Melbourne of the importance of our case.

Over the coming months our 'Masterplan' began to take shape. A SEB Board subcommittee was formed and with close engagement with our architectural partners.

A comprehensive 'Educational Brief' was created by Kerry Sells and shared with SEB & CEM.

With all this focus and dedication, we have come to the point where in Nov 2019 we are very close to agreeing a plan with an ability to go to tender soon, and hopefully commence building towards end of Term 1-2020.



This has been a long process, years in the making and has required patience, time and expertise with many contributing hours and hours to attend meetings, lobbying politicians and Catholic Education Melbourne and review plans with board & architects.

The total cost is approx. \$4.15 - 4.3 million and as it is not fully funded, to help finance this initiative our school board also approved the Family Building levy to commence 2020 and likely continue until 2035.

However, we now within sight of what will be an excellent education space and multipurpose resource for our school community which should future-proof Our Lady Star of the Sea for the next 25 years.

Our grounds continue to thrive with teachers and pupils land care & the leadership of Mark Monahan and our increasingly successful 'Working Bees'. These weekend 'working bees' have been a feature for a few years but are growing as a great social and school community event which, we can continue to encourage, promote & grow.

The sustainability of our school is increasingly at the forefront of our pupils, staff, parents and SEBs focus and we have had some great initiatives with tree planting, recycling, reduction in waste, EarthFest, water use (and reuse) and the consideration of Solar panels on our new buildings. Also

promoting walking cycling as a safe and carbon neutral way getting to school, along with the health benefits, is being emphasised.

Engagement of the whole community is the only way these can be truly a success and as our young people become more educated about the perils of climate change, the leadership they have been shown at primary school can hopefully have a long lasting effect on them and their families.

I am aware there will be a separate report into the work of the PFA will be submitted, but it has been invigorated this year with several hugely successful events including Drive-in Movie and Parents Quiz. A formal thank you and note of appreciation to all those who have contributed to this group over this year from our SEB.

We were unable to have our annual formal shared meeting with St Aloysius, Queenscliff, but some did attend the subsequent presentation by Dr Michael Carr Gregg, which was appreciated by many. This interschool meeting is a valuable event and I am sure will be re-instated next year.

One item of note is the change at Archdiocese level where the Archbishop of Melbourne will be the nominal head of the new 'Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Authority' meaning that the local Parish priest will lose the long standing devolved powers of appointing principal's and many other important roles.

May I implore that in no way should this change the relationship with schools and parish, and in fact it should be a catalyst to find ways to strengthen and enhance the Catholic Identity of our school in all that we do whether in 'play or prayer', 'sport or sacraments.' Fr Darien is now established as our faith leader and his guidance and talents should be utilised throughout the school.

Catherine Sampson has served on the School Education Board since 2015 and has performed the role of Board Secretary during most of that time. Not only has she prepared the Agenda, attended 'pre-meeting' meetings monthly with the Principal & Board Chair, but then has created and updated the 'Google Drive' account and published the accurate 'minutes' of our deliberations.

She is also one of the most visible parents at our school, volunteering for many events and her upbeat persona and can-do attitude has been a consistent presence throughout my time on the SEB. She has a pleasure to work with and we congratulate her on her service to the school.

I'd also like to thank Sr Nola for her contributions this year, who will be moving on to work in South Australia with the Sisters of Mercy.

On a personal note, It has been my privilege to serve on this schools education board, and a delight to spend time with staff and parents.

Lively discussion has always brought about reasoned consensus to all aspects of our conversations and it is a credit to the teachers and parents & faith leaders who have contributed to this.

Briony Darcy, will take on the role of SEB Chairperson from 2020 and I am sure you will wholeheartedly support her over the coming years.

Catherine & I are being ably replaced by Amy Bonacci & Chad Ellis who bring new skills, enthusiasm and a new perspective to this cohesive team.

In a school community, nothing is more precious than volunteering your time & talents for the improvement of that school and the advancement of catholic education. We are blessed to have so many who are willing to do that in so many ways.

Finally, the recent CEMISIS (2019) results highlighted a school with many strengths particularly amongst staff engagement and the leadership of the school, which is great to see, but also some areas to work on. I think this was a very valuable exercise and something the SEB can monitor over the coming year to see if we can continue to improve.

The SEB is a small, but important part in our school community. It sets the tone for a mutually respectful relationship between parents, staff and the parish & I would like to thank you all for creating this positive environment.

I look forward to the great developments in infrastructure, sustainability, teaching and learning and promotion of catholic education that this school & its education board has promoted, for many years to come.

Michael Sheridan

Nov 2019