

Hello and welcome to the Mel Maria Annual School Community Meeting. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Malena Della Bona and I was the School Board Chairperson in 2018. I'd like to thank you all for taking the time to come along tonight. As you may already know, the main role of the School Board is to plan for the present and future operation of the School; disseminate information about the School and about Catholic education to the School Community; liaise in all matters relating to the financial management of the School; manage the finances associated with the School; and advise the Principal with respect to School policy.

This year the Board has undertaken a number of projects aimed to ensure we deliver on these expectations. Whilst the financial aspects of our role are highlighted in the Treasurer's report; I will now highlight the key policy and planning initiatives undertaken in the last 12 months.

A few issues were carried on from 2017, including the cross walk and after school care. These items both remained high on the Board's agenda. Finally in 2018 the cross walk at Northlake road was opened and children on this campus using the service have been able to enjoy a safer walk to school. In the coming months it is hoped the crosswalk will be assessed and deemed busy enough to become a Type A crossing, meaning WA Police will take over its operational costs. In addition, after weighing up various after school care service providers and models and assessing which would best suit our school community, we were also pleased to see the establishment of before and after school care at the Pater Noster campus in October last year and its uptake by parents.

In 2017 the Board's focus was the development of a marketing plan for Mel Maria. 2018 saw the implementation of this plan. With the help of Board released funds, staff have been able to develop an attractive, user friendly website which will help parents navigate the school system and showcase our school community and all we have to offer. There have also been a number of strategic advertising opportunities the school has been able to take up as a result of the Board's marketing plan.

We have also been looking strategically at the maintenance requirements of the school grounds, to ensure both campuses are looking their best and continue to provide a safe space for our children to learn and our teachers to work. In 2019, with the completion and establishment of the new church at Saint Joseph Pignatelli plans are developing to upgrade the SJP undercover area, quadrangle and surrounding area, with comfort, shade and softening as the focus.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of all members of the 2018 Board: James, Kylie, Campbell, Raechell, Scott, Macca, Louise, Leanne, Deacon John, Fr Sean and Fr Joseph, and of course Jo, Ros and Greg. This year Scott and Kylie are leaving the Board, they have both added great value to Board discussions and had a positive impact on the forward thinking nature of the current school board. They will be missed. This year I too am stepping down from Board duties, after 4 years, 2 as Chairperson. I wish the incoming Board all the best as they work towards their goals for 2019.