Chairperson’s Report – 2016 AGM

As I sit to write my final Chairperson’s Report I am ‘forced’ to reflect on how we look now to when I was first elected to the Board. I was so green in 2013 and the All Saints world looked different. The enrolment at the start of 2013 was 496 … 2017 looks like it will nudge 600. I’ve farewelled a Principal and a Priest, welcomed another Principal and another Priest! And up until that time we had never had a whole school excursion to the beach to celebrate All Saints Day! But by far the biggest change has been the development of the new capital works that will be in full swing from the end of this year.

I am surrounded on the Board by competent, compelling and dynamic parents, staff and community members. I thank them for their time and effort; given freely and with no expectation of applause. I hope that all the members can reflect on the year with satisfaction. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work Garry Herdegen does to oversee our financial position. He provides the Board and Leaders with sound advice without pressure or presumption. Because of his mentoring and monitoring over the past 5 or so years we are in a place of great strength moving towards our re-development.

Our Reggio Emilia philosophy continues to shine through in everything we do. I am extremely passionate about this way of teaching and have strengthened my understanding of the philosophy and its importance to our children and young people. When I finally realised that Reggio is the ‘how’, rather than the ‘what’, we teach I came to fully appreciate its importance to our community and the links it has to our faith formation. The Re-development Team have worked tirelessly to ensure we have been able to maintain the integrity of our Reggio Emilia approach in our new works.

2016 saw Justin Cavuoto begin his second year as Principal. He continued to immerse himself in our culture but started to make changes that would show improvements for us in the longer term. Kate Turner left us at the beginning of the year to take up an Acting Deputy Principal role at Galilee Catholic School at Aldinga. Nick Wright was appointed as the Acting APRIM in her absence and has taken to the leadership role with relish. Together with Helen Thompson the Leadership Team have steered us through the year.

The All Saints staff are extraordinary. As parents and carers we bring our children and young people to you with trust in our hearts – trust that you will teach, nurture, care for and enhance our children’s lives. We all know that the positive experiences our children receive at All Saints are reflected in their family and community life. You are truly valued.

And so finally to 2017 – may we continue to be passionate about the Catholic education sector and make our passion evident in everything we do. As we begin the coming year our school will become a worksite however I hope the outcome will be worth the long wait.

We are all custodians of the future of our children and young people. All of us: parents, carers, educators and leaders have an integral role in the formation of our children and young people and their exploration of their Catholic identity. Our children and young people will always look to us for guidance and navigation and I know together we are ready. We have all played a vital role in the continued faith centred community that is All Saints.

Catherine Kennedy
CHAIRPERSON