



ORANA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

23rd NOVEMBER 2023

PREPARED AND DELIVERED BY CRAIG PETTA

Good evening parents, teachers and other attendees of our Orana school community. I would like to welcome and thank you all for attending the 2023 Annual Community Meeting.

As with all years, 2023 brought with it many challenges that the school as a community has had to face.

The economy has and will continue to impact families in 2023 and into 2024, with cost-of-living pressures driven by high inflation and the continued rise in interest rates. The Advisory Council is, and remains, mindful of these pressures on our community and the expectation for these pressures to continue into next year. We also acknowledge the many different circumstances in addition to inflation and rate rises that families find themselves in, and thanks to the strong financial management of the school, we are happy to announce a zero percent increase in tuition fees for 2024.

As we approach the end of the school year, we celebrate another year for the community to be proud of. Orana continues to excel. Amongst other things, we are an Apple Distinguished School, operate a very successful inhouse run OSHC and pre-kindergarten program, and a music program that continues to be, and is constantly the envy of all schools in the state. This year we added to our offering to students with the introduction of Auslan. All of these are strong points of difference, that when paired with Orana's unparalleled community spirit, continues to draw more and more children and families to our school and community every year. It is this reputation that results in our ability to continue to attract enrolments and encouragingly our Kindergarten classes for 2024 are currently full.

The Advisory Council assists Orana in a number of ways, not the least with the financial direction of the school. I am happy to confirm the school is in a financially sound position and want to acknowledge the school leadership team and in particular Ann Fissioli, our Finance Officer, for her continued care of the financial wellbeing of our school, and for her close interaction with the Finance Committee of the Advisory Council. I would also like to acknowledge David and Candice's contribution to the Finance Committee as well as Andrew Council in assisting the committee in a consulting role.

This year, in addition to the Finance Committee, the Advisory Council has established and effectively run multiple sub committees, including the:

1. Capital Works Committee - which completed the capital works project in the OSHC area of new toilets, science kitchen and OSHC office within budget.
2. Uniform Committee - which has continued the work started last year on the uniform review, with input from all stakeholders (children included), of current uniform issues

and has reviewed multiple new and modernised uniform options. I am excited to say that with their hard work this project is on track to see the introduction of new more modern and comfortable uniforms for Summer in October 2024. I would like to specially acknowledge Carmelle's leadership of the uniform committee and the hours she has personally given to meetings and communication to make this all happen.

Other initiatives the Advisory Council were involved in were:

- Continue to implement actions from the 5-year Maintenance Plan.
- Year 6 restoration after water damage included new carpets, skirting, cupboards, wall units and painting.
- Commenced a replacement of window covering program.
- New vinyl flooring to Kindy.
- Year 1 furniture replacement (Combined project with the P and F).
- Air conditioning replacement program continued - all year level classes now have split systems installed.
- Front lawn, Kindy pre-primary and oval restoration program including purchasing a cylinder mower.
- Internal painting (OSHC, Music rooms and Year 1 and general maintenance).
- External painting (Green Shed and maintenance) program continued.
- Replacement of entry doors to Year 1/2 wet area.
- Security Screens replaced on classroom's facing the oval.
- Security camera upgrade / extension.
- Lightning upgrade (internal and external areas).

This year also saw us conduct a Principal Review in Term 1 and through consultation with the school community, Advisory Council and CEWA, it was very evident how fortunate we are to have Dee lead our school, and even more fortunate to have her do so in the years to come.

I am also happy to say that recently the school participated in a successful QCESR (Quality Catholic School Review) with CEWA and received fantastic feedback through the process.

At this time, I would like to thank all my fellow Advisory Council members for all their effort, support and the generous volunteering of their time. You are a group that has brought varied talent, experience and diverse dialogue to our council that has been valuable in assisting the school manage its ever-changing needs and challenges.

I am nearly done, but I have to ask you to indulge me for just a minute or so. I have had the honour of being a part of Orana's School Board, and in more recent years, the Advisory Council, for seven years, acting as Chair for the last two years. After tonight, my time on the Advisory Council will come to an end, but I am very proud to have been able to be a part of this school's rich history. We only ever get to be part of the story, and while it is sad for me to see my time end, as a parent of children at Orana, I am excited for what is next for this wonderful school and its story.

In writing this, I have had the opportunity to reflect on those seven years and how much the school has changed. I am proud of the challenges this school has faced, met and overcome in that time. We have become stronger both financially and as a community. We have seen principal and teacher changes, and student numbers have increased by 7.5%. We navigated

our way through the long uncertainty and difficulty of COVID and the health and financial impacts it had on students, staff and the community. In all of this the one constant has been the commitment, hard work and passion for the school from all stakeholders. All of us here tonight, and who have been here over this time, should be very proud.

With this being said, I would encourage anyone who feels they have something to offer, to consider putting their hand up for a position on the Advisory Council. Our school and our children will be richer for it.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to Dee, Kathryn, all the teachers and staff of this wonderful school for continuing to put our children at the centre of all that you do. We are fortunate to be blessed with your dedication to both your vocation and our children.

Craig Petta
School Advisory Council Chair