



Lumen Christi College Board Annual General Meeting Chairman's Report 2020

It is a great honour to be able to present the Lumen Christi College Board Chair's report for 2020, capping off what has been a truly extraordinary year for everyone.

Stepping into the role at the start of the year, there was no indication of the challenges and unique responses that lay ahead of our College community, let alone the emotional, physical and financial rollercoaster that continues to be faced around the world. The arrival of COVID-19 turned a traditional college year on its head. There can only be gratitude and praise expressed for the amazing work and commitment to provide the facilities, the supervision, the technology and the incredible flexibility that enabled students to adapt, and for families to juggle the near ever-changing complexities.

Home schooling took on a new meaning in 2020 and the resilience of the students to remain focused and connected was inspiring. While the College remained open and available for a limited number of students, most adapted to home schooling across extended periods of terms one and two. The work of teachers to learn new skills to support student learning was outstanding. Given there was no plan to simply pull off the shelf, nor a tested model to follow, what was achieved and the care and support provided in the totally unique circumstances deserve ongoing plaudits and thanks. It is also important to highlight the amazing volume of work that quietly and steadily happens behind the scenes in any given year, away from the students and the classrooms, but which is essential to the daily operation of the College. This work helped keep the College on a stable course despite the turbulence and has maintained the solid base for the College to continue its success into the future.

Thankfully throughout the year, the College community have remained safe from the widespread and devastating impacts of COVID-19. This also enabled the return to a relatively normal mode of operation for a large part of the year, testament to both students and staff. While there were disruptions to the delivery of some subjects and the ability for traditional excursions and activities to take place was greatly impacted, there have still been great learning outcomes from students.

Throughout the year, strong financial acumen has enabled the College to successfully cater for the numerous challenges confronted and also support families across the College community. A commitment that no student would miss out on a Catholic Education due to the financial impacts of COVID-19 has helped to underpin the support and commitment of the College business management.

An interesting side note was the power boost that started the year in the form of more than 360 solar panels on the sports centre roof, resulting in a near instant benefit of an approximate 75

per cent reduction in the College dependence on traditional power drawn from the grid. Unlike recent years, and somewhat advantageously, there were no big-ticket capital works across the College in 2020. The most notable changes being the relocation of the demountable building to the rear of the Performing Arts Centre to provide backstage facilities and the establishment of the peaceful Memorial Garden.

While there have been countless distractions throughout 2020, importantly Lumen Christi College has continued to develop and evolve. The reshaping of the College Executive Leadership Team for 2021 and the focus on long-term educational success and staff development has been pleasing to see and be part of.

Technically, this is the final report by a College Board Chair. Next year, the College Board will also evolve, in line with the changes to governance of Catholic Education WA (CEWA), to become the Lumen Christi College Advisory Council. While there are a number of technical governances, financial and legal obligations that have been assumed by CEWA, the Advisory Council will continue to provide review, input and endorsement of the College activities, providing an ongoing level of review and recommendation on the College operations. The changes are appropriate, in line with the incorporation of CEWA, and maintain important links to the College community that provide an essential ability for input into the future of Lumen Christi College.

The success of the 2020 school year has highlighted the strong leadership and management that the College has in place and the success of the CEWA incorporation process thus far. The development of the College Strategic Plan 2021 – 2023, has been a process that encompassed input and review across the College staff and board. Built around the College Guiding Lights, with links to the CEWA's strategic directions, the plan will be underpinned by the annual School Improvement Plan to continue the delivery of quality educational outcomes where no student is left behind, each has the opportunity to grow and flourish, and the College helps to form resilient young women and men.

This focus will maintain the success of the College and maintain a bright future, especially if the strong future enrolments and the large groups of interested students and families turning out for the College tours continue.

I'd like to thank my fellow Board members for their commitment and flexibility throughout the year, especially for being active participants in meetings and adapting to online and social distancing nuances. Every member of the Board brings with them a different perspective from across the College community and coupled with their open engagement, this experience has enabled thorough consideration and inputs into the College's future. Thank you also to Karen Prendergast, Silvana Vicoli, Kim Hanson and Deserea Bush for your continued support, guidance and interaction with all Board members throughout the year.

May the Light of Christ continue to shine brightly on the entire Lumen Christi College community in 2021 and beyond.

Stuart McLagan

Board Chairperson