



## President's Report 2016/17

The Parents' Association plays a key role in the partnership between families and the School. Each year we strive to maintain meaningful connections with the School through communication, events, forums and importantly enhancing and strengthening personal networks.

We commenced 2016 with our third annual Blokes and Spokes event, attracting close to 200 boys and their nominated bloke. It was heart-warming to watch dads, grandfathers, uncles, older brothers and even neighbours join the boys in a ride along Hobart's famous bike path. As an Association are very 'chuffed' that this event is achieving our goals. That is, a simple and healthy activity that fosters and recognises the importance of a male role model plays in all our boys lives. Thanks to the Parents' Association's Vice-President Mrs Lou Christie for her commitment to this annual event, as well as the 2016 Prefects, mum's and Hutchins staff for their support of this event.

In April we said thanks and farewell to Mrs Megan Killion-Richardson for her leadership as President of the Association in the past few years. I have learnt quickly that there are a lot of behind the scenes roles that the President performs. I am very grateful to the entire Association committee for their support, flexibility and ongoing contribution to our School through the Parents' Association.

Since our AGM in April as a Committee we have been focusing on defining further the function of the Association and exploring how we may be more relevant and accessible to the broader school community. We hope to achieve this through making minutes from our meetings readily available online, communicating more often and in different ways with parents/carers; and being present at more school led events.

In 2017, much of this work will hopefully come to fruition, and we envisage that by the next AGM we will have better representation from the parent community from all areas of the School.

Last year Megan acknowledged the work of Mrs Jenny Inglis, who for the past 14 years plus coordinated the very important Mother's and Father's Day stalls. This year we welcomed a new stall co-ordinator Mrs Anna Yard-Cumming. Anna with a team of enthusiastic and generous mums worked tirelessly for months sourcing, making and packaging a new 'flavour' of gifts for our boys' in ELC and Junior School to choose from. My own son was very delighted to be able to purchase jewellery for me and the very important 'Best Dad Socks' for his dad. These stalls are an important resource for our boys allowing them to independently choose how they would like to acknowledge and thank their female and male carers in their lives.

In September the School held the inaugural Magenta & Blacker event. Whilst this event was not led by the Parents' Association, I would like to recognise the value events like this provide through



building a positive, connected and engaged community. Congratulations to the Schools' Community Engagement and Event Team for bringing together the art, culture and the broader School in a creative, relevant and attractive event.

Two months later the Community Engagement and Event Team was instrumental in helping the Parents' Association deliver the annual School Fair. With the weather in our favour, thousands gathered at the School on Friday 14 October to enjoy sport, activities, games and the festivities of a School Fair. This year's Fair was a true display of 'team work' with no Fair coordinator, but a team of volunteers working to celebrate our School. In particular, thanks to Association Secretary Amanda Phair for her support of the Fair. For me, the Fair highlighted our School's commitment to embracing cultural diversity; with contributions from the Chinese community and Polish communities. I also noticed that the event attracts far more than our current boys' and their families, but also Old Boys, past parents and students from neighbouring schools, both independent, Catholic as well as State schools.

The Fair also reminded me that the event was one of many 'lasts' for our Headmaster Mr Warwick Dean. Mr Dean has lead our school through considerable changes over the past decade. It is under Mr Dean's leadership that the School has cemented what it means to *Build Good Men*. *Build Good Men* is more than a marketing tag line; it provides our teachers with innovative practices; it focuses on the wellbeing of our boys; it provides our boys with the structured environment that they need with endless opportunities.

As an Association we look forward to supporting our new Headmaster Dr Robert McEwan and continuing a strong connection between the parent community and the School.

In 2017, we are keen to deepen our engagement with the parents and carers of school and hope to grow our membership of the organisation. Thanks to everyone on the Executive, committee members and new additions onto the Association in the past year. I encourage you to stick around and continue to share your support for this great school of ours.