26 November 2025

School Community Annual Meeting

Reports

Sacred Heart
Annual Community Meeting

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

2025 AGENDA

6.30 pm: Welcome [Principal, Steve Gibbs]

- **Prayer**
- **Acknowledgement of Country (Steve Gibbs)**
- **Previous Minutes (Steve Gibbs)**
- **Parish Priest Report [Paula Elder]**
- **School Advisory Council Chair Report [Louise Frisina]**
- **School Advisory Council Treasurer Report [Kaylene Shepherd]**
- **Election of School Advisory Council Members [Steve Gibbs]**
- **Combined P & F President's Report & P & F Treasurer's Report [Shelley Wallace]**
- **Election of P & F Office Bearers [Steve Gibbs]**
- **Principal's Report [Steve Gibbs]**

Thank you for making the effort to attend tonight.

Welcome/Introduction

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School ACM 2025

Good evening to you all, and thank you for your time in attending our Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School ACM of 2025.

Here tonight we are being presented with a number of reports. We will also elect new members for the School Advisory Council and the P&F Association. We will also receive budget information regarding 2025 and 2026.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL THORNLIE
2023 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES:
27 November 2024

MEETING OPENED: 7.01pm **66 attendees and 1 apologies**

OPENING PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY: Steve Gibbs / Braid Bouffler

1. **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- Report was presented at the meeting

2. **BOARD TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Report was presented at the meeting
- School Fees for 2024 – 5.5% increase

DESCRIPTION	2024	2025
Annual Tuition Fee		
1 Pre Primary / Primary Child	$1,332	$1,405
2 Pre Primary / Primary Child	$1,065.60	$1,124
3 Pre Primary / Primary Child	$799.20	$843
Kindergarten Tuition Fee	$713	$702
Amenity Fee		
Kindergarten (Speech $80)	$345	$357
Pre-Primary (OT Fee $60)	$490	$553
Year 1	$465	$528
Year 2	$485	$548
Year 3	$375	$438
Year 4 (iPad Levy $225)	$550	$613
Year 5 (iPad Levy $175)	$375	$563
Year 6 (Graduation Fee $70)	$445	$458
P & F Levy - Annual fee per family)	$100	$100

Signature of Chairman: _____

Building Levy - Annual Fee per Family	$285	$300

3. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Principal's Report was tabled at the meeting

4. ELECTION OF 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

5. P & F REPORT INCLUDING TREASURER'S REPORT

- Report was presented at the Meeting
- Election of 2025 Committee
  - Held over for commencement of 2025

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Announcement of staff allocation and farewell and thank you to staff leaving us at the end of this year.

7. NEXT MEETING

The Next Annual Community Meeting is Wednesday 26 November 2025

MEETING CLOSED: 8.04pm

Sacred Heart School, Thornlie – ACM

Parish Priest Report 26th November *2025* Fr George James

I would like to begin by once again expressing my sincere thanks to all of you for your support of both myself and the parish. I also extend heartfelt appreciation to the Sacred Heart School staff for the effort and work you continue to contribute in sustaining, developing, and strengthening the faith and mission of our parish, school, and local community.

I have now completed two years among you in this parish, and from the very beginning, I have felt welcome and at home. Thank you sincerely for your kindness, warmth, and generosity of spirit.

Parish and Community Life

Our parish continues to be a vibrant and faith-filled community, supported by more than twenty active groups contributing meaningfully to parish life. These include:

- Parish Council
- Finance Committee
- Maintenance Committee
- Youth Ministry
- Legion of Mary
- St Vincent de Paul
- RCIA
- Music Ministry
- Catechists
- Seniors Group
- Social Committee
- Adoration
- Rosary Group
- Mother's Prayer
- Personal Advocacy
- Craft Group
- Heart to Heart
- Liturgy Committee
- Steering Committee
- Volunteer Drivers
- Knights of the Southern Cross
- Parish Renewal Team

Together, these groups represent over **200 dedicated volunteers**, each playing a vital role in supporting the practical, spiritual, physical, and social needs of our parish community.

School–Parish Partnership

We are blessed with an excellent school community that continues to support our students not only in their education but also in their spiritual formation. This partnership ensures that students and their families remain connected to the life of the parish.

I would like to express special thanks to:

- **Steve Gibbs**, Principal
- **Darlene Min**, Assistant Principal
- **Peter Merry**, Assistant Principal

Their leadership, collaboration, and support continue to strengthen the relationship between Sacred Heart School and the parish.

Parish Administration and Office Life

The past year has brought significant changes to parish administration, with new systems, processes, and responsibilities introduced. These developments have added considerable workload, and I am deeply grateful to our parish office team and volunteers for their commitment and diligence. Their dedication has enabled us to meet both the pastoral needs of our community and the administrative requirements of the Archdiocese.

Sacramental Life of the Parish (Past Year)

- **40** children received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**
- **47** children received the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**
- Approximately **44** children are preparing for **First Holy Communion**
- **16** Funerals were celebrated
- **9** Internments of ashes took place
- **7** RCIA candidates were fully initiated into the Catholic Church
- **1** Wedding and **3** Convalidations were celebrated
- **71** Baptisms were celebrated — an increase from **63** in the previous year

These sacramental celebrations reflect the ongoing life and growth of our parish community.

Closing Remarks

In all these things, I remain deeply grateful for your support, faith, and unwavering commitment to our parish and school community. With so many active participants contributing to parish life, I pray that we may continue to work together in peace and harmony, guided always by the Spirit of Christ.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.

School Advisory Council – Chairperson Report

Good evening,

On behalf of the School Advisory Council, it gives me great pleasure to present my Chairperson's Report for the 3rd year. This year the council consisted of myself, Allarice, Damian, Lauren, Paula, Kaylene and of course Father George, Mr Merry, Mrs Min and Mr Gibbs. It has been an honour to serve alongside you all again, we all bring something different to the table, whether it is from our induvial careers, experiences or values, or roles within the school, collectively, and I know we make a great team.

This year as we all know, we participated in the Quality Catholic Education School Review process, which focuses on the effectiveness of a school's engagement, school improvement and the future directions for the school.

I would like to share a quote from the report with you all,

In 2025, Sacred Heart Primary School is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Over the course of its existence, the school has firmly positioned itself as a school of considerable choice within the Thornlie community, having maintained a positive reputation for excellence in education and care. Having its foundations with the Loreto Sisters, the Loreto values of Respect, Reverence, Resilience and Responsibility are tangibly witnessed in the relationships and structures that exist at the school. As a school that has as its motto, "God is Love", it fosters a supportive and nurturing environment where every member of its community is encouraged to grow and thrive.

And..

The staff at Sacred Heart Primary School demonstrate a deep commitment to the education and wellbeing of every student. Teachers and support staff are recognised across students and parent community for their professionalism, dedication and the genuine passion they bring to their roles. A strong culture of collaboration and shared responsibility is evident, with staff expressing confidence in their ability to contribute meaningfully to the school's improvement journey.

Congratulations to everyone for such a positive review.

Before I discuss the items on our agendas this year, I would like to take the time to say some 'Thank you' s' on behalf of the School Advisory Council.

Firstly, we would like to sincerely thank our amazing teaches, teachers assistants, including the ELC AND OSHC education staff, canteen staff AND OF COURSE OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM.

We, as Parents chose this school for our children, for a multitude of reasons, but we keep our children here year after year because of you all, because of your dedication to the students and their educational needs, your care and consideration when it comes to their pastoral care, and your sense of playfulness when it comes to their imaginations. All our children are so different and individual, and we thank you for allowing them to all grow in their own way, and in their own time.

We are also extremely thankful to our Admin staff who continue to be the backbone of the school, the face of the school and whom we all have come to rely on. These ladies all embody the principles of our school, and we are sincerely Thankful to Chloe, Helen and Lindy.

That is the 3rd time I have spoken those 3 paragraphs – I chose not to change them because they are all just as true today as they were 3 years ago. With so much change constantly going on around us – an environment that is safe and well protected is so important for our children. So sincere thanks to you all once again.

We would also like to Thank the P&F for the important work they do and the amazing ladies who spend so much of their time doing so much extra for our students and our school community. I can 100% attest to all the extra hours of organising that have gone into this year's events, each one has gone off without a hiccup and that is a true testament to the dedication, organisation and precision of these amazing ladies. Best wishes to the members finishing up this year and welcome to the new members joining us in 2026.

Congratulations to Shelley and Chantal for taking the reins this year, introducing new ideas and facilitating some fantastic events for the school community.

This year the major items we have discussed this year at our SAC Meetings were:

Our New Uniform
Our Social Media presence and marketing plan
Our capital development project
Our teachers
Our school finances
Our student numbers including OSHC AND ELC
Our school maintenance
Our School Parish.
AND of course, Our 60th Anniversary

As we all know the new uniform was introduced this year after years and years of planning. Slowly we are seeing more of the new uniform appearing and less of the old uniform. We are aware that the transition wasn't easy with stock shortages etc but as time goes on and the compulsory date of January 2027 comes closer, we will start to see some uniformity appearing. Understandably the mixed uniforms will still look a little messy for next year, but we will continue to promote the new uniform for a faster conversion rate.

Social media and marketing have been a huge priority within our meetings again this year, as we felt the need to share 'the good word' among our community. With the expertise from Mr Merry and added support from CEWA we have seen the implementation of these ideas including a fantastic photo day at Lumen Christi College where Mrs Min, Mrs Harn and select students were part of a CEWA initiative for marketing. We are also proud to share that we will have our highest number of enrolled students attending Sacred Heart next year – 452 - that we have in a long time, and KINDY is FULLY BOOKED!!

Of course, the completion and opening of the Mary Ward centre has been monumental for Sacred Heart this year. Knowing the build went smoothly and all involved co-operated with classroom movement etc is a testament to our school community. I quote:

The newly constructed Mary Ward Centre is a purpose-built facility designed to support the diverse needs of our Special Needs students. The centre features a flexible layout with glass doors that divide the space into three large classroom areas, promoting both collaboration and focused learning environments.

Again, after years and years of planning, we are all so proud that it is finally completed and look forward to hearing how well the students and teachers have settled into their beautiful new space. We were also incredibly honoured to have been bequeathed the monumental Mary Ward statue, created by artist Meliesa Judge. This has completed our garden perfectly. I am happy to report also that the build came in under budget which is the cherry on top.

As with all workplaces there will always be a changeover of staff, and we are notified of any staff movements throughout the year. We acknowledge the teachers that may be moving on from our school community and thank them sincerely for their service. We also welcome new staff members to our school and look forward to getting you know you in 2026.

The biggest and most considerable changes for staffing in 2026 comes for our Leadership team as we all know.

Mr Merry having a year off for long service – have a fantastic time – we look forward to hearing about your travels when you return in 2027. You have become such a valued part of our school and we look forward to your return.

Mrs Min – I'm sure we all agree that your role as acting principal will be so warmly received by all, most definitely the right person for the role and we know that you will lead us all professionally, respectfully and with the highest level of care as we expect from you.

Mr Gibbs – congratulations again on accepting your new role for 2026, we have seen the significant changes you have made within our school in such a short amount of time and know that you will be able to impart so much of your knowledge to others. With sincere thanks and appreciation for all you have done for our school community, we look forward to seeing you throughout the year and your return for 2027. Please don't forget about us.

Kaylene our Treasurer – meticulously goes through the schools' finances with the assistance of Lindy. She has/ will go through this in detail and we thank them both for their attention to detail. Endorsing the school budget is also part of our role and we await this for 2026.

School maintenance is always on the agenda, and this year was no different with several items being addressed. These are always handled with care, professionalism and proficiently.

Father George and Paula, our Parish representative always keep us in the loop with what is happening in the Parish. The many events, changes of staff, building repairs and community involvements are always included in their reports and we again are so Thankful for their contributions.

Our 60th Anniversary Year has been full of events with Mrs Min and the 60th Committee working very hard to respect the celebration. Incorporating the 60th anniversary into every school event in some form has been well received by all.

Our major events – the Alumni Sundowner and the Official opening of the Mary Ward centre were a huge success in bringing so many of the Sacred Heart Community back to our school. Friday's event was particularly special with the inclusion of the Year 1W students, the choir and dancers contributing to a beautiful day in the sunshine with so many VIPs in attendance, including the Loreto sisters who also celebrate a milestone this year – 150 years of the Loretto order. The honourable Matt Keogh officially opened the centre, and he spoke so well about our school and the importance of community, I know there were a few of us that got a little emotional as the significance of the day set in.

The memorial boards, logo and banners have been used all year and have really created a sense of achievement for this special milestone in our school's history. The staff shirts and 60th memorial pins for the students were also all well received. We acknowledge the financial support from the Federal govt., Collene Egan, member for Thornlie and of course our P&F for our beautiful new garden with Special Thanks to Lauren for organising the Memorial Bricks for our new garden, they have finished off the garden design so beautifully and will remain a constant reminder for us all.

What a year it has been and how quickly has it passed us by. With that, I will sign off, thank everyone once again and send best wishes to you all for a wonderful festive season and holiday break.

SAC Treasurer's Report

It is my role as the Treasurer of the School Advisory Council to present the Initial Budget for 2026. The Budget has been approved by CECWA.

My sincere thanks to Steve Gibbs & Lindy Munnings for their work in preparing the budget for presentation to the school community.

The Budget Summary

Recurrent Income for the year is broken down into three components.

Operating Income (School Fees, Discounts & Other) $766,062
State Government Grants (Per Capita & Needs Support) $1,599,386
Australian Government Grants $5,713,415
Capital Income (P&F and Building Levy) is budgeted at $182,200

The major Recurrent Expenditure categories for the year are

Employee Benefits $6,732,578
Curriculum & Departmental $131,636
Administration & General $345,780
Property Maintenance and utilities amounts total $334,989
Depreciation $461,865

The trading accounts have budgeted trading income of $1,446,623 and expenses of $1,439,476 for a surplus of $7,147.

Overall the budgeted surplus for 2026 before depreciation is $624,981 and after depreciation a surplus of $163,116.

Recurrent Income

From the income graph we can see majority of the income comes from the federal government. The state government and trading account income for 2026 will contribute nearly half, with school fees making up the remainder.

The funding pencil ensures every student is funded at a level of the Student Resource Standard (SRS). Our Primary Base Funding is $9,563 per student. Sacred Heart is fortunate to receive SES loading of $373,405 and SWD loading of $1,358,932 which includes ATSI loading of $16,583 to specifically address the unique learning needs of indigenous students.

The State Government also fund schools by per capita, students with disabilities and intensive support needs. We have budgeted for an increase in state government funding per capita and an increase for students with disabilities. The per capita total is $1,016,023 and SWD total is $583,363.

Enrolments for 2026 are predicted to be 60 in Kindy and 392 Pre-primary to Year 6.
A total school enrolment of 452.

CEWA have recommended and approved an overall increase to our School Fees for 2026 of 3%.
This slide compares the School Fees schedule for 2025 & 2026.

There have been small increases to fees that cover third party charges and Years 4 to 6 now have iPad leased devices in line with CEWA recommendations. However, insurance costs for these devices are not passed onto parents and Technology Levies have been reduced for these cohorts.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Steve, Lindy and Childcare Directors Megan and Claire for their work this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Steve and Lindy on the completion of the Mary Ward Centre. Although the project ran slightly over time due to unforeseen circumstances—such as wet weather and delays in the delivery of steel, none of which were within their control—they have achieved something truly remarkable by delivering this project under budget.

The Mary Ward Centre is an outstanding achievement. It is a beautiful, functional space that will serve our school community for many years to come. I have no doubt that both our current students and the generations of students to follow will benefit greatly from this wonderful new facility.

Please join me in congratulating Steve and Lindy on a job exceptionally well done.

Finally I wish Steve all the best for his new position with CEWA in 2026 and welcome Darlene in her new role as Principal. I look forward to working with you Darlene and the Advisory Council members next year.

Thank you

Kaylene Shepherd

Annual Community Meeting - P&F Presentation 2025

In 2025, The Sacred Heart P&F Association comprised of 14 committee members including our Executive Committee, Shelley Wallace as Chairperson, Chantal Burford as Vice Chairperson, Leah Barnes as Secretary and Serena Li Pan Koh as Treasurer.

P&F purpose

The purpose of the Sacred Heart P&F is to:

- Strive to develop a school community, consisting of parents, teachers, and students, which reflects a true Christian ethos
- Work closely with the School's Principal, Assistant Principal and teachers to achieve common goals for the good of the children
- Encourage all parents, care givers and friends to enjoy the exciting experience of their children's formal school years by active participation, volunteering and personal involvement in activities and events run by the P&F
- Provide a healthy forum for ideas and discussions where everyone is heard on relevant issues that benefit the education and wellbeing of the children
- Where necessary, conduct fund-raising to provide additional resources for the benefit of the children or to assist teachers in their professional work.

Events and Activities

We commenced our 2025 school year with our annual Evening on the Green.

Our fundraising efforts began in Term One with the Easter Raffle raising $894.85

In Term Two we held a sausage sizzle and cake stall for the federal election. This raised $1,573.03. Our Mother's Day Raffle and Stall raised $1970.35. We also ran our Commemorative Brick Fundraiser to coincide with our 60th Anniversary, raising $2,516.92.

In Term Three the Father's Day Raffle and Stall raised $3,639.41. The Sports Carnival Raffle raised $778.70, Sports Carnival VIP Tent Raffle $816.74 and the sports carnival merchandise raised $527.05.

Term 4 will be finished off with the Christmas Raffle, which will be drawn at the Christmas concert on the 5th December.

Summary of our busy year

Term One
- ✓ Evening On the Green
- ✓ Easter Egg Raffle

Term Two
- ✓ Mother's Day Stall
- ✓ Mother's Day Raffle
- ✓ Sacred Heart Day
- ✓ Commemorative Bricks
- ✓ Federal Election Sausage Sizzle

Term Three
- ✓ Father's Day Stall
- ✓ Father's Day Raffle
- ✓ Sports Carnival VIP Tent
- ✓ Sports Carnival Raffle
- ✓ Sports Carnival Merchandise Sale
- ✓ Country Hoedown Student event

Term Four
- ✓ World Teacher's Day
- ✓ Crazy Hair & Sock Day
- ✓ Christmas Raffle

P&F Funds raised

This year $30,847.50 was received from the P&F levy and an approximate total of $12,906.50 was raised from events throughout the year.

Direction of Levy and Additional Funds Raised

- ✓ P&F Affiliation Fee (430 students)
- ✓ Contribution towards Year 6 Graduation Dinner
- ✓ Zooper Dooper afternoons for students
- ✓ World Teacher's Day
- ✓ Contribution to the build of the Mary Ward Garden
- ✓ Donation of garden products for OSHC
- ✓ Country Hoedown student event
- ✓ ACM Food
- ✓ Contribution to the cost of the Christmas concert

Ongoing Fundraisers

Containers for Change has been a profitable scheme again this year raising $152.27.

The Entertainment Book contribution has declined in recent years and only raised $38.18 this year.

The P&F's bank balance as of 31st October 2025 is $61,883.71.

Major Projects

Our next major fundraising initiatives are:

- Additional reading books for the library
- Rebuild of the steps and amphitheater used for concerts

Thank you!

- To the P&F Committee and all the association members who attended our meetings and volunteered throughout the year. The dedication and support of the team enables us to come together as a group and assist each other in the planning and set up of all of our events.
- Our Principal Steve Gibbs, and Assistant Principals Darlene Min and Pete Merry, all Teachers and School Staff.
- A huge thank you to our Office Staff who support us unconditionally and are always there to guide us or work alongside us. Without these ladies we wouldn't be able to achieve the results we do.
- Mr Ian and Nadine – thank you for your help with moving equipment, checking the containers for change bins and supplying us with beautiful flower arrangements.
- Abi in the canteen and Claire in OSHC – thank you for allowing us to take over your freezer space!
- To the loyal school community families who continually support us with offers to help and for all your generous donations to the P&F throughout the year. We are so grateful, as without your support we would not be as successful.
- An extra special thanks to the P&F members that will not be returning next year. Thank you for your wisdom, hard work and friendship.

P&F Association Levy 2025

The P&F Levy will remain unchanged at $100 per family. Please do not hesitate to contact Steve Gibbs should you wish to discuss how you can support the P&F's valuable work.

The following nominations for executive positions have been received and accepted:

Chairperson – Shelley Wallace

Deputy Chairperson – Chantal Burford

Treasurer – Position vacant for 2026

Secretary – Leah Barnes

Unfortunately, Serena won't be able to return as Treasurer next year due to family commitments.

Our first Event for 2026 is…

The Evening on the Green, to be held Friday 13th February 2026

Principal's 2025 ACM Address

Good evening and thank you for attending our school ACM this evening. Thank you to the members of our community who have already tabled their reports. I appreciate the time and effort that you have put into the process and thank you for your commitment and dedication.

In my report tonight, I will share with you some information from last year that is also available on our school website. I will talk about the highlights of our current school year, and I will share some initiatives and projects earmarked for 2026.

As part of System and Government regulations, I am required to report to the community on a number of key performance indicators. Whilst this is published in June annually on the school website, I will take the opportunity to report to you on some of this information that relates to the 2024 school year.

Slide

At the conclusion of the 2024 school year four staff members left the school and the staffing qualifications were as follows; Diplomas of Education (9), Bachelor degrees (15) Masters of Education (7). Student attendance in 2023 was at an average rate of 90.31% with this being spread relatively evenly across year levels with Pre Primary having the lower rate of 89.77%. Graduating Year 6 students went on to attend 16 different secondary schools with the majority (42 students) attending a Catholic school and 11 going on to a DET school. The remaining students went on to attend Christian or Care School arrangements.

This is a brief snapshot of school performance indicators and the full report is available on the school's website.

Slide

In 2024 the percentage of students in Years 3 and 5 achieving developing or above in NAPLAN were:

Year	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Three	90.4%	88.5%	92.4%	86.5%	84.6%
Five	91.8%	90.1%	93.4%	91.9%	88.5%

In 2025 the percentage of students in Years 3 and 5 achieving developing or above in NAPLAN were:

Year	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Three	85%	87%	85%	77%	88%
Five	90%	96%	92%	84%	90%

A major part of our school improvement planning over the last five years has been the implementation and consolidation of the Talk 4 Writing program. Our staff have worked tirelessly to consolidate and develop expertise in this challenging way of teaching writing. We have been continuing our partnership with DSF whereby we provide an open day once a term to schools considering taking up the program. This is a significant recognition of our school's hard work in developing expertise. The following slides show our improvement in writing.

Slide

Other professional development undertaken this year were: Religious Education – unpacking the new Curriculum, Wellbeing and First Nations Education Day, Magic 1-2-3 Emotion Coaching and ongoing Maths coaching from CEWA Mathematics team. Our Wellbeing Day focussed on workplace wellbeing strategies and using AI to help with workflow.

Slide

This year work was undertaken in a number of areas around the school. Some of this important work included:

- Tree lopping and trimming
- Roofing repairs
- Signage
- Mary Ward Centre
- Senior toilets
- Mary Ward Garden
- New planting

The new Mary Ward Centre is a culmination of many years work and was achieved with support from the Federal and State Governments. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Mrs O'Sullivan and the ISC team in managing the build and the disruption to their environment. They are settled in now and loving the new space.

Slide

The school continued to be actively involved in many activities that give our children further opportunities. Children took part in Interschool sports, homework club, running training, choir, dance, Catholic Performing Arts Festival, Interschool Spelling Bee Challenge and many other activities. Our Christian Dance Group, The Hearts Liturgical Dance Group again won the shield in the Catholic Performing Arts and we won a Certificate of Merit in the CEWA QCE awards for our Walk to School with Luna project.

This year was also our 60th Anniversary and I would like to make special mention of our Anniversary Committee of Darlene Min, Louise Frisina, Paula Elder, Claudia Therkelsen and Chloe O'Leary for their hard work in planning the many events that helped celebrate our milestone year.

Slide

Next year we will continue to focus on the key Curriculum areas of Reading and Writing but start to shift our focus to Numeracy. We have engaged with the Numeracy team from CEWA and look to continue our journey in improving our numeracy results throughout the school. We will also be continuing to explore approaches to enquiry learning in the early years. This year Mrs Sandra Maguire and Miss Olivia Cooper attended a Regio Emilio Conference and implemented a very successful program. They recently shared their results with other CEWA staff at a mini conference. Well done to the ladies for their hard work.

Slides

Major work that will be undertaken next year is:

- Resurfacing of the Basketball court
- Repair to Amphitheatre

Our staffing for 2025 is as follows. **(See PowerPoint slides – Admin/Ancillary).** Could I ask Rebecca, Allanah, Laura and Courtney to stand. Welcome to Sacred Heart.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge staff members who are leaving. Could these staff please come forward to accept a gift from the SAC. Mrs Malissa Kelly, Miss Shantelle Tassone, Mrs Mary Coates, Mrs Amy Edgar. These staff conclude their time with us, some has been short whilst others like Malissa's have been longer. We appreciate all of your contributions over the years to our school community. I would also like to acknowledge all staff who are concluding short term placements with us.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our exceptional Assistant Principals, Mrs. Darlene Min and Mr. Peter Merry, for their unwavering support and guidance throughout the year. Their input in shaping decisions and setting the direction for our school has been invaluable. Working alongside them has been a privilege, and the significance of their roles cannot be overstated. Their calm, dedicated, and compassionate approach has been instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of our school, particularly during times when I needed to take leave.

Looking ahead, Mr. Merry will be on leave next year, and I will also be away as I take on a secondment as a School Improvement Advisor with CEWA. I am delighted to share that Mrs. Darlene Min will step into the role of Acting Principal during this period, supported by Mrs. Kate Poole and Mrs. Roxanne D'Amato as Acting Assistant Principals.

A heartfelt thank you to Chloe, Lindy, Clare, and more recently Helen, our outstanding administrative team. Their professionalism ensures the day-to-day operations run seamlessly and that parent and student concerns are addressed promptly. They truly represent the welcoming face of our school to families and visitors. I also extend my thanks to Mr. Ian Gerhardy, Mr. Barry Jones, and Mrs. Nadine Gillespie for their tireless efforts in maintaining our grounds, which create a wonderful first impression.

Special thanks to Mrs. Epis for her compassionate work as our School Social Worker, providing additional care and support to students.

I also acknowledge our dedicated Child Care teams in the Early Learning Centre and OSHC. Their enthusiasm and commitment to delivering high-quality services are deeply appreciated by our community. Particular thanks go to our service directors, Megan Rowland and Claire Siaus, for their leadership and passion.

Our Inclusion Support Centre has had an outstanding year, welcoming new students and staff who have settled beautifully into our fantastic new facility. With enrolments continuing to grow, we remain a school of choice for families seeking support for children with additional needs. My gratitude goes to Mrs. Liz O'Sullivan, our ISC leader, along with teachers Fleur, Josune, and Mary, and the incredible team of Education Assistants for their dedication and care.

Sacred Heart is blessed with a team of committed, professional, and supportive staff. I am privileged to work alongside such talented teachers and ancillary staff who have navigated a year of significant staffing changes with resilience and adaptability. Their focus on achieving the best outcomes for our students has been inspiring. Teachers are the backbone of our school, and I have felt immense pride seeing them share their expertise with visiting schools and showcase their hard work.

Our partnership with the parish continues to thrive, particularly through the coordination of Sacramental celebrations. I have greatly enjoyed working with Father George, whose kindness and understanding of school life have been invaluable. Thank you to Darlene for her leadership in coordinating the Sacramental Program, and to the Parish Catechists and SVDP members for their ongoing support.

I am also fortunate to work with an outstanding School Advisory Council and P&F. Their encouragement, advice, and commitment have been essential to our success. Special thanks to Louise Frisina and Shelley Wallace for their leadership as Presidents of the SAC and P&F. Your dedication has been greatly

appreciated. I would now like to acknowledge departing members Lauren and Damian for their exceptional contributions—please come forward to accept a token of our appreciation.

As I prepare for a new professional chapter, I do so with confidence that Sacred Heart is in a strong position and in safe hands. I look forward to seeing the school continue to flourish in 2026.

Wishing you all a joyful and safe Christmas and holiday season. I am excited to celebrate 60 years of excellence with our Sacred Heart community next year. Thank you and God bless.

Steve Gibbs

Principal