Chairman’s Report

Annual Election Meeting 2016

Blessings to all of the families and friends and staff of Good Shepherd and the congregations that support our dynamic school.

Part of me can hardly believe that it is November already and we are nearing the end of the school year, another part of me feels like we must have crammed another month or two in there somewhere with all that has happened. It has been another year of achievements, reflection, hard work and dedication along with a good measure of fun and learning thrown in as well.

Our principal, Anne Marschall has maintained her strong work ethic and led with enthusiasm, patience and integrity. It has been an honour and privilege to be the chairman at Good Shepherd and I am enormously grateful to have had all the support that I have been afforded from Anne, Brian, Pastor Erik, Theresa, the teaching staff and our dedicated governing council. I pray that this continues and that they continue to be blessed in their respective roles.

It has been a busy year and a successful year with various sub committees working together and then coming back to the Governing Council and working together as a collective. We were delighted to be able to launch the strategic plan for our school back at the AGM in May and I sincerely thank all the members of the various sub committees for their time and enthusiasm which enabled us to complete the plans. Now it is up to all of us to continue to implement and bring meaning to the strategic plan and I am pleased to say that many of the initiatives are being put into place.

There have only been a few staff changes this year, which has been wonderful. At the end of term 2 we farewelled our beloved librarian and learning support teacher Mrs Jenny Pfeiffer, Jenny has been such a wonderful, loyal and long term staff member and an active member of the school community for 50 years, I know that Jenny had a wonderful rapport with my children and has been missed tremendously. We welcomed Rhian Doecke in term 3 as our new librarian and learning support and Rhian has blended in beautifully and has become an integral part of the Good Shepherd team. We also welcomed Janet McIntyre to fill the role of Year 6/7 teacher on Thursdays and saw the return of Miss Sarah Hooker for Term 3 while Daniel Hausler took some well deserved long service leave. Mrs Daphne Schiller and Mrs Jenny Pfeiffer returned to fill the position of Administration while Mrs Theresa Whitehead also took long service leave from week 6 in term 3.

At the end of this year we will farewell Laura Herrmann as she takes maternity leave and wish both Simon and Laura all God’s blessings for the safe arrival of their first child. We congratulate Rebecca and Ben Klemm with the birth of their third child, and wish them all the very best of health and happiness as their families grow.

All of the staff are to be commended on their dedication and enthusiasm in the way that they inspire and encourage our children. We are very blessed to have such a committed and caring group of people and we appreciate their individuality and will to make learning fun and encourage our children to develop their own talents and interests.

Our school could not hope to realise the potential and be the success that it is, without our amazing, reliable, passionate group of volunteers. I don’t wish to name them all individually as I would hate to offend by missing any names out.
There have been a number of working bees throughout the year and no doubt there will be again next year and as a collective we encourage you to look out for the notices in the newsletters next year and spend a day loving on our school. As is often the case, it is the same families that show up and dig in, but it is the entire school and all of our children that benefit enormously through their efforts and we absolutely appreciate them for it.

Our Parents and Friends Association have once again been particularly busy, they are such an asset to our school and we owe them all a great deal of gratitude and appreciation for their efforts and determination and time. Through these efforts they have demonstrated the wonderful community spirit which our school is enriched by and raised valuable funds which have enabled the school to purchase a number of items including:

* putting on an Easter breakfast at no charge – just because
* Dozens and dozens of Tupperware containers to be used in our canteen, promoting sustainability and saving money
* A disbursement to each of the teachers for materials and extras in their classrooms
* New storage shelving for the hub
* a truly amazing gift of $21K which will be used towards upgrading the playground equipment

There were a number of fantastic events held throughout the year including

*Sports Day
* House Day
* Family movie night held in the Shepherd’s Hub
* camps or sleepovers for all students
* regular “drinks and nibbles” afternoons after school
*the hugely successful Wine and Dine night

I have had the pleasure of being able to attend quite a few of these events and I am in awe at the level of preparedness and professionalism and the pride in which the P & F run these events. We are so fortunate and blessed to have these families so invested in our school and so willing to devote their time and energy and considerable talent for the betterment of our kids’ learning experience. I love the inclusivity of our parents and feel that this too is “teaching” our kids life lessons in community and what it means to be a part of something special

I would like to thank and acknowledge Pastor Erik for his continued support and enthusiasm for our school. Pastor Erik has a great way of capturing the attention of our children and entertaining the kids and also the adults alike, even the animals were blessed last term when we held a special service in the hub, with a full house, it was another special day of fellowship and fun.

As chairperson, I would like to thank my fellow councillors, it has continued to be a steep learning curve for me and I have really been grateful for all of your support and patience and I’m very appreciative of the mix of people that we have around the table which enables us to have really healthy debates and I feel that our diversity is one of our greatest strengths.
I especially wish to acknowledge and appreciate Darren Broadbent and Richard Inwood who will not be renomining for council tonight. Both Darren and Richard have had key leadership roles on council this year and have spent many hours attending various meetings here. The time and effort that you have put in over a number of years have been appreciated we are all very grateful to you. The time given by all the councillors is voluntary and extremely valuable for the school as a community. This school could not function in the way that it does with the level of achievement and harmony if it wasn’t for the efforts of all of our volunteers.

Thank you for all of those parents that serve our school whether it be on council, in the canteen, the playgroup, class carers, the P & F, the uniform shop or attended the working bees held throughout the year, on behalf of all the children and families that attend the school, thank you so much.

I feel very blessed to have been able to serve the Good Shepherd School as chairman in 2016 and I am excited about what we will all achieve in 2017.

Yours in Christ

Chris Secomb