



HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL
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Board Report - AGM 26 February 2020

On behalf of the Board and as Acting Chair, I have been asked to give a summary on the operation of the board for 2019 and mention some of the highlights and some operational issues that the Board dealt with.

The School Board consisted of Jess Martin, (Chair) Michael Courtney, (Treasurer) Sally Courtney, (Secretary) Carolyn Hutton and Father Victor. In June, Ruth Marsden also came on board. Susan Scanlon attended all meetings, and then after her resignation was given in Term 1, Assistant Principal Melaine Dusterhoff Mavricks also attended meetings for the rest of the year, so she could be present in Term 4 in Susan's absence.

2019 was another eventful year at HRS that came with many changes, mostly in terms of staff movements. There were some financial challenges however still many rewarding and positive experiences for the students and School community as a whole.

School enrolments were approximately 130 students which was lower than previous years. Consequently, in many meetings, the focus and discussions were about the school budget and the school's resources and areas where the school could potentially save costs but without limiting the level of curriculum and activities offered to its students.

The Parents and Friends Association had folded due to all existing members finishing up in 2018 after what was one of the active years of fundraising School had seen. No new parents joined the Committee for 2019, however, despite this, the school collectively raised money for Caritas in Term 1 and throughout the year, individual parents along with teachers, organised a number of successful and enjoyable fundraisers. Year 6 Camp was an enormous effort on behalf of parents and teachers at HRS. It was a great achievement with their combined dedicated efforts to how much money was raised in just four months.

The Board was briefed on the new Accounts Payable System that HRS had to introduce to be aligned with other schools accounting systems. From a budgeting point of view, it came with its challenges for staff to use as categories and ledgers are more general therefore initially, it was making it harder to define and report on individual costs and expenses.

The Board was advised by Susan of how the school went with its annual Audit. HR was not required to introduce any new procedures or make substantial changes in its reporting methods, so this was a very positive outcome.

The Board were required to make a decision on the School's Outstanding Bad Debts, which were outstanding fees that had not been paid over several years. Many ongoing attempts had been made to recoup approximately \$30,000 from families but without success. The decision was made to write these debts off.

In early 2018, one of the Board Members proposed to Susan the idea of Corporate Sponsorship for Holy Rosary and if it was an acceptable option by CEWA to potentially obtain some Sponsorship for the School. It was passed as an option as long as the Companies approached were ethical, and were well respected Kimberley based organisations that the School could be associated with. In 2018, both Buru Energy and Pardoo Beef Corporation were approached for some Sponsorship and both donated money. 2019 Buru Energy sponsored HRS again with their sponsorship contribution paying for 40 new Inter-school sports uniforms. Mt Gibson generously donated to the Grade 6 Camp major Raffle. The sponsorship helped cover some funds for the school that wasn't able to be raised through the P & F.

Along with major staff changes, our Chair Jess Martin also resigned from her position late in 2019 as her family moved to Broome. Her contribution was very appreciated for the two years being apart of the School Board.

The end of 2019, we had the resignation of Assistant Principal Melanie Dusterhoff Mavricks and her husband Gavin Mavricks, our Groundsman. Stephen Scanlon also resigned from his position, he did a great job with starting the school choir and teaching music along with other subjects. All their contributions to HRS, along with other teachers that resigned due to interstate moves was significant and hugely appreciated.

Despite that last year our Principal finished up at the end of Term 3, then the School had an Acting Principal for Term 4, Peter Egan, simultaneously our newly appointed Principal Yvette Clifton had commenced work whilst on leave for Holy Rosary late last year, the day to day school's operation progressed as usual without any disruptions. It was evident to the Board that these major staff transitions were managed extremely well by all involved.

Sally Courtney