

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

After a rapid and significant growth phase in recent years, the school this year moved to a much welcomed consolidation and peak enrolments phase. Enrolments grew from 1566 in 2013 to 2720 in 2018. Enrolments at the beginning of 2019 are 2880. With the opening of the new college located adjacent to the old Subiaco Football Ground and based on Year 6 student indications from our feeder schools, it is estimated that Year 7 enrolments in 2020 will be between 380 and 420. The school has had to plan, implement and manage the associated increases in staff numbers and infrastructure.

As usual, during 2017 the Principal and his executive team diligently prepared the school's budget for 2018 and that budget was unanimously approved by the School Board. In late 2017 the Minister for Education announced that the school's per-student funding would be significantly changed, commencing in January 2018.

For schools like Churchlands, with enrolments of more than 1200, the per-student funding for 2018 was reduced by \$1145 for each student above 1200 students. For students in Years 7 to 10 in a school with fewer than 1200 enrolments, the per-student allocation was \$9016, while for those schools with more than 1200 students it was \$7871. For students in Years 11 and 12, in a school with fewer than 1200 enrolments, the per-student allocation was \$9693, while for those schools with more than 1200 students it was \$8548. For Churchlands, the per-student allocation was between \$7871 and \$9693 for every student enrolled at the February 2018 student census.

Based on the Department's enrolment projections for 2018 of 2760, the school's per-student allocation was \$1 786 200 lower (\$23 644 299 rather than \$25 430 499) due to the lower per-student allocation for students above the 1200 thresholds.

It is a great credit to the Principal, Mr Neil Hunt, and his executive team, that they were able to restructure the school's budget at very short notice to deal with a reduction of \$2 million in funding. This, however, could only be achieved by severely depleting the school's Reserve Funds which the Board had assiduously accumulated over many years for major long term projects, such as a new swimming pool. The Board has reluctantly come to the conclusion that the pool and other projects are now not capable of being funded by the school.

The benefits of an Independent Public School like Churchlands being able to plan and budget the allocation of its one line funding budget, in the most efficient and effective manner, in the best interests of and in accordance with the school's priorities as determined by the Board (especially longer term projects) are quashed and nullified by a government policy which results in reserves allocated for longer term projects being depleted to meet day to day operating expenses.

With the completion in late 2017 of the Year 7 building, science/arts block, mathematics block, technology centre and gymnasium, I am sure that all students and staff were pleased that the school no longer resembled a construction site during 2018.

The School Board has again confirmed that the optimal size of the school is no more than 2500 students. The aim is to remove all demountables and reclaim the playing fields.

In October 2018, the school hosted a "Back to School" event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1968 (my year – I still cannot believe that it is 50 years since I graduated from Churchlands). This is the second cohort of students to achieve their 50th and become members of the "Churchlands Gold Class". This has now become an annual event for successive graduating years. Thanks go to Tracey Galton and Nawal Kurson for arranging the event.

The Churchlands Senior High School Foundation (Inc) "Solar Power for Scholarships" project to install 400kW of solar power comprising over 1000 panels was established in late 2016. With the hard work of the Foundation Board, the very generous donations of donors large and small and the support of the P&C, the Foundation was in a position to fund the project in its entirety by early 2017. I am extremely disappointed and embarrassed to report that Building Maintenance and Works only managed to put the project out to tender in January 2019, two years after the Foundation had sufficient funds to complete the project. Due to this delay, the school has not been able to realise and take advantage of the significant saving from the generation of free solar power for two years. It is an understatement to say that I am not impressed with the government bureaucracy and red tape involved in this project.

The Board congratulates the graduating class of 2018 and it was a pleasure to again attend the well organised graduation ceremony in November. Their achievements are a great testament, not only to the students and their families, but also to the Principal, teachers, support staff and school management as a whole. This success has enhanced Churchlands Senior High School's reputation within both the education and wider communities.

The success and reputation of the school depend on cooperation between and the hard work and dedication of: the leadership of the Principal and his Executive and Administrative team, an active School Board, P&C, Alumni and Foundation, and of course, the staff and the students.

In particular, I would like to thank the Principal, Mr Neil Hunt, for his leadership and along with his Executive team for their application and dedication to achieving the best outcome for the school. The Board has been very pleased with the planning, implementation and execution of the various strategies set out in the school's Business Plan. The members of the Board have strategic oversight

of the school's achievement targets, finance and overall direction and have worked in positive accord with the school administration. During 2018, the School Board focused its efforts in the following areas:

- Review of the reports by the Principal on the progress of the Business Plan.
- Endorsement of the Annual School Report, school budget and student performance targets and achievements.
- Endorsement of the financial arrangements necessary to fund the school objectives, priorities and directions.
- Review and endorsement of current and future building programs.
- Support and promotion of the Board, the P&C, the Churchlands Foundation and the Alumni in the school and the community.

Serving on a School Board is a privileged opportunity to contribute and create better outcomes for the school, students, staff, parents and community.

I acknowledge Tracey Gralton (Alumni Representative), Chris Porteous (P&C Representative), Grant Brinklow, Adrian O'Brien and Janet Pettigrew (Elected Parent Representatives), Jane Hegarty and Kim Hudson (Staff Members), Shrushti Jethva (Head Girl) and Ethan

Blume (Head Boy) all of whom generously gave their time during 2018 as Board Members and I thank them for their efforts and dedication.

For your information, copies of the Minutes of all Board meetings are published on the school's website <https://www.churchlands.wa.edu.au>.

The Board welcomes your input and encourages your feedback.

John Gillon
Chair
Churchlands Senior High School Board
jmgillon@iinet.net.au

March 2019