



**SAINT HELENA'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Something Beautiful for God*

# **2025 Annual School Community Meeting**

## **School Advisory Council Chair's Report**

As 2025 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on my seven year journey as a member of the St Helena's School Advisory Council. It feels both surreal and meaningful knowing this will be my final address in this capacity and as part of this team.

My connection to St Helena's began long before I sat at the council table. Our family's journey here began in 2012 when our eldest daughter, now preparing to enter Year 12, walked through these doors as a little Pre-Kindy student. I was only 24 then and really, I was still learning how to navigate being an adult and parent. St Helena's quickly became a place that shaped me as just as much as it has shaped my children.

Schools have a gentle way of doing that. They don't just grow students, they nurture whole families, guiding us and helping us find our footing as our children find theirs. I had no idea then how profoundly this school would shape our family's story and that I would have the privilege of watching St Helena's evolve, grow and continually improve to be the best version of itself.

One of St Helena's greatest strengths has always been our beautiful campus. Our students learn and play on spacious grounds with large open areas that encourage exploration, creativity and connection. This year the School Advisory Council continued a focus on the continual improvement of our facilities, ensuring our children have the best learning environments we can provide. We have supported the ongoing upgrades to classroom furniture, learning spaces and play areas, while also prioritising future planning which includes upgrades to our basketball courts and veranda spaces.

Additionally, we began the early work of formulating the next St Helena's School Improvement Plan by reflecting on our strengths and identifying our key areas of focus for the future. This work is still unfolding but the clarity of purpose shown by the School Advisory Council and the Leadership Team gives me great confidence. The strength of our enrolments numbers and continued demand for Kindergaten places speaks to the confidence our community has in St Helena's as a school of choice and as a place where students are inspired to grow into the people God intends them to be. We are honoured to have so many families entrust their child's education to us.

One of the most defining and beautiful aspects of St Helena's is our rich multicultural community. We are blessed with families from many backgrounds, each bringing unique stories, experiences and traditions. This year, School Advisory Council member Lual Garang generously shared with our staff his story of arriving in Australia as a refugee. His insights helped our staff gain a deeper understanding of our families from African backgrounds and the resilience, courage, faith and hope that shapes their lives. Moments like this reflect our vision for collaboration as a community where all voices are valued. We see this in our students as they model what it means to embrace diversity with kindness and curiosity, celebrating culture in a way that reflects the heart of St Helena's.

As I step down from the Council, I want to express my sincere gratitude to so many. To all our St Helena's staff and Leadership team, I extend a heartfelt thank you for the commitment you bring not only to the learning of our students but also to their growth and wellbeing. This is reflected in the sense of safety, belonging and confidence our students carry, which exists because of the care you show so consistently. You live out our pillars of safety, respect, engagement and community every single day. You are the reason St Helena's students leave here feeling like they have had a great primary school experience and that legacy matters more than you know. It is the strong foundation that shapes their confidence and future success long after they leave us. Thank you for your dedication and for continually going above and beyond.

Thank you also to my fellow members of the Council, Kodie Adams, Tim Griffiths, Lual Garang and Jade Martelletti. Thank you for your time, insights and willingness to contribute to meaningful discussions. You have made our work not only productive but enjoyable. Seeing your energy, passion and shared vision has been one of the highlights of my final year. I feel confident leaving knowing the Council is in very capable hands, possibly the strongest it has been in all my years of service.

To Father Bona, our Parish Priest, thank you for the time and effort you devote to visiting and ministering with our students despite an enormous workload. To Mrs Hannah Wager, our Parish Representative who is also stepping down after seven years of service to our school, thank you for your support and for strengthening the connection between parish and school. Your service has helped our students grow in their faith journey and in their understanding of what it means to live the Gospel each day.

Finally, thank you to every parent, grandparent and community member who offers their time and talents. St Helena's is shaped not just by its students and staff, but by the families who help write its story.

St Helena's has been an important part of my family's story for fourteen years. It has shaped my children into young people, it has brought me treasured friendships and it has offered opportunities to contribute to a community I care deeply about. Our story here mirrors the experience of many families who have also felt that same sense of support, belonging and positive impact on their children's lives. When I think back to that moment in 2012 when our eldest first walked through these doors, I understand now just how profoundly a school can shape the lives of its students and their families. We had no idea then how naturally our family's story would become part of this community and I am forever grateful that we chose St Helena's all those years ago.

My chapter on the School Advisory Council is coming to a close but the story of St Helena's continues with new voices, new ideas and new opportunities ahead. And that is the beauty of a school community. Each chapter builds on the last, shaped by our shared commitment to faith, respect, collaboration and care for one another. Together these values guide the next generation in ways that reach far beyond the classroom.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and for allowing me to serve this school for so many years. It has been a great privilege. I look forward to watching St Helena's continue to thrive as it enters its next chapter, living out its vision and continuing to inspire all of us to do something beautiful for God.