



ORANA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

14 NOVEMBER 2024

Prepared and delivered by Barbara Cook

Good evening parents, teachers and other attendees of our Orana school community. I would like to warmly welcome and thank you for attending this year's Annual Community Meeting.

As we reflect on another successful school year, Orana has continued to thrive and uphold its commitment to excellence. This year, our achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of both students and staff, as well as the ongoing support of our school community. We are particularly proud to have maintained our Apple Distinguished School recognition, which Orana has held since 2011. In addition, our pre-kindergarten offerings and in-house OSHC program continue to provide invaluable support for our families, whilst our music program continues to excel. This was evident once again this year, with the school's ongoing success, demonstrated at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival.

Orana was also the winner of two Quality Catholic Education Awards this year – the first award was for cultivating a cohort of leaders, showcasing our student led model of year 6 student leadership. The second award was for integrating faith, life and culture, highlighting the wonderful connection to our parish. We are grateful for the continued support of our parish priests, Fr. John and Fr. CJ, and we thank them for nurturing this important relationship. We also took time to reflect on the leadership of Fr. Thai, whom we bid farewell to earlier in the year, and warmly welcomed Fr. John into our Orana family with the Orana School Feast Day, being his first school mass with us.

I am happy to confirm the school is in a financially sound position and want to acknowledge and thank the school leadership team, and particularly Ann Fissioli, our Finance Officer, for her continued care of the financial wellbeing of our school, and her ongoing close interaction with the Advisory Council's Finance Committee. I would also like to acknowledge Cesar Villar for his contribution and time commitment to this year's Finance Committee.

In addition to this Committee, the Advisory Council has effectively run multiple sub committees this year, including the:

- Capital Works Committee – the OSHC renovation of the kitchen and flooring is now complete and sign off has been given from the City of Canning for kitchen use. The tender for the basketball court renovation has been accepted and work is due to commence in December.

- The Orana onsite uniform shop is now open every Thursday morning, with a full range of the new uniform available. I would like to take this time to once again thank Carmelle Wilkinson for leading this subcommittee.
- There has also been a significant number of maintenance projects throughout the year some of which have included -
 - Installation of artificial turf to the year 1 outdoor learning space
 - Replacement of bathroom exhaust fans
 - Tree trimming, removal and planting as directed by the tree audit
 - Sand sifting and tops ups to the sandpits
 - Installation of outdoor blinds to the pre-primary verandas
 - The hall meeting room renovation
 - Brick paving to the pre-primary sensory gardens, and
 - Replacement of early year's playground shade sails, to name but a few!

A special mentioned to all the staff that organised and liaised with contractors, as well as Bruce Alp for all his ongoing help.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow Advisory Council members for volunteering their time and support throughout 2024. You all bring varied diverse expertise to our council, and this continues to prove invaluable in assisting the school manage its varying needs.

I step down this evening as this year's chair of the Orana Advisory Council, having spent four years as part of this committee. It is also a bittersweet moment for the Cook family as our journey at Orana also comes to an end, after 10 short years. I want to express my heartfelt thank you to all of you, for everything you have done for my family during this time.

Having spent the last twenty years in industry, I used to think how great it must be to be a teacher - they are always on holidays! However, having spent very limited time as a parent helper in the classroom over the years, has shown me that you all deserve every holiday and so much more! Teaching must be up there as one of the most undervalued professions. You play a crucial role in shaping the future and guiding our children. Thank you for being more than just educators. You are mentors, role models, and a source of support and encouragement for these young minds. Your influence on our children extends far beyond the walls of the classroom.

From the moment we walked through those school gates with 3-year-old Hannah, Mr. Barns and all Orana staff, made us feel right at home and we knew instantly we had made the right school choice for our children. Ryan followed a year later and adapted seamlessly. Over our 10-year journey here, you have partnered with Mike and I, to lay the foundations for our kids to embody the spirit and values of this school - Generosity, Respect and Excellence, all of which will remain with them forever. That combined with Orana's unparalleled community spirit or its "vibe" has led not only Hannah and Ryan, but Mike and I to make lifelong friendships.

I've had the privilege of participating in interviews for teaching positions at this school in the last two years. The absolute love of teaching expressed by these candidates, some

of whom were successful and are here this evening, as well as expressed in the classroom daily, has been truly inspirational. Orana is so incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated and passionate educators and all round just a truly great bunch of humans.

I say all of this as a reminder to all Orana staff of the phenomenal impact you have on our children's lives and for that, the Orana school community is truly grateful. Keep the Orana "vibe" alive and I look forward to witnessing the continued success and growth of this school.

Thank you once again, Dee, Kathryn, Andy and all Orana staff (past and present) for helping create the best primary school memories.

Barbara Cook

School Advisory Council Chair