

28 June 2019

Rejoice!



The Cultural Experience at Leongatha was a wonderful event, with sixteen nationalities from the campus represented.



Chairo
Christian School

*Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!*
Philippians 4:4 NIV

EMPLOYING CHRISTIAN STAFF

In the previous edition of *Rejoice!*, I presented two matters that we will be working hard to advocate for to our parliamentary representatives: (1) parental choice in quality education, and (2) reliable and fair funding.

In that article, I intimated that there is another vital issue for Christian schools. This third issue is our paramount interest as a school to be able to uphold our *freedom to employ committed Christian staff members*, and for our teachers to be able to teach from a biblical worldview perspective.

These words are like a foreign language to many of our politicians. It just doesn't make sense to them that we would need to employ a Christian to teach Physical Education or Mathematics, or to be at reception or on our maintenance team.

Those we speak with rarely understand how faith is intimately integrated into and affects all aspects of life. However, it is vital to us for a number of reasons.

No aspect of life is neutral

Firstly, we believe that there is no aspect of life (let alone a school) that is neutral. There is no aspect of life that is not shaped by some story.

Chairo's mission, our reason for being, is to 'provide Christ-centred education'. In short, we seek to provide an education that is shaped by the story of Jesus, and by what he has done in and for all creation.

We do not want to have our students shaped by a story that says, 'You are the centre of the universe and all that matters is you'. Or a story that says, 'If you only try hard enough, you will be okay'. Or one that says, 'What you look like, and what you have, is what determines who you are'.

Whether we like it or not, or know it or not, everything is shaped by a story, and we choose to have God's story shape who and what we are at Chairo. In order for that to be a reality, we need people working with and for us who know, believe and live out that story.

Partnership with families

Secondly, our mission statement says that a Chairo education is provided 'in partnership with families'. Families choose to join the Chairo community because they want to be intentional about who they partner with in the training and education of their children. They choose to partner with staff members who know, believe and live out of God's story.

This is no accident. It is an intentional and desired part of why families choose our school. We love this and want to protect it!

In all of this, we want to be good representatives of God and his kingdom as we advocate for these important requirements. What we are hoping for is not a radical

'fight' on these matters, but for us to position ourselves with a posture of clarity, humility and faithfulness.

We hope to continue to have conversations with those that are influential, and to continue to do our best at serving God as a Christian school.

God is sovereign. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He knows the issues and he's got the solution; it's our job to just be faithful. As we humbly and faithfully represent Chairo and other Christian schools on these matters, we want to have the following as our assurance and hope:

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Simon Matthews, Executive Principal

LIFELONG LEARNING

The term 'lifelong learning' is something that most people will have heard of, including in relation to what we desire for our students at Chairo. Albert Einstein once said, 'Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death'.

But what does lifelong learning really involve? The three main aspects to lifelong learning are described below.

- The first aspect is formal education beyond school. We encourage our young people to continue learning through university, TAFE, Bible college, traineeships, apprenticeships and experience in the workplace. Continued formal education isn't just for young people finishing school; it's for anyone with a passion to know more.
- The second aspect is the informal learning that occurs through the reading of books, watching instructional videos, finding a mentor, joining a group and engaging in the deliberate practice of particular skills. We all do this to one degree or another as we pursue interests, or even just as we learn how to use our new phone!
- The third, and most important, aspect to lifelong learning is the way that we are called to continually learn about God. Colossians 3:16 says 'Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts'.

We are to journey together, encouraging each other to learn more about who God is and what He has done. In this framework, we learn to be wise. Then we are able to apply the wisdom that we have learned to the new and varied situations that will come our way.

Learning isn't just for at school. It's for all of life!

Shelly Beamish, Head of Teaching & Learning (Drouin)

CAPABILITY, CHARACTER AND COMMITMENT

When considering the educational pathway for their children, many parents spend a lot of time researching and visiting prospective schools to determine which one might be the best fit for their child.

The school that is ultimately chosen is one that reflects the values of the family home, a place where students will feel supported and given opportunities to be the best versions possible of themselves.

School is not just about the gaining of knowledge. It is also a place where foundations for life can be built. At Chairo, we value the partnership of parents and our vision is 'to see Christ's redemptive impact in the world through the capability, character and commitment of our students'.

Schools are busy places, so how do we strategically plan to implement programs that will cater for growth of the capability, character and commitment of our students?

Capability

Our students have been incredibly gifted by God, with talents that often astound us. To hear the Concert Band play, or to see works created as part of the Th!nk Project, is truly an incredible moment for parents and teachers alike.

Each day, teachers plan and implement learning programs aimed at inspiring students to become enthralled with the world that God has created. There is nothing more rewarding than to see the face of a student who has just discovered something new.

Transformation by Design is the curriculum planning framework that we use at Chairo and this provides opportunities for teachers to incorporate biblical thinking into all of their planning, and to consider their deep hopes for students who engage in each of the programs. This is the why of teaching.

Character

The CLAY Biblical Character Training Program that we use at Chairo provides opportunities for students to explore, and have explicit teaching on, a range of character traits that have been demonstrated in God Himself, and that we, as imitators of God (Genesis 1:26–27), should endeavour to embody.

The development of positive character traits should flow directly from spiritual growth. Biblical character traits and maturity can't be instilled into children simply through lessons during regular devotion times.

In addition to specific lessons, these things have to arise naturally throughout a range of events at school. They depend greatly on the quality of life and the health of the relationships that they experience in and out of the home.

Commitment

At Chairo, we want our students to develop a sense of commitment, not because Mum or Dad is looking over their shoulder, but because it is the God-honouring thing to do.

The skills and talents that God has blessed us with should not be wasted; they should be nurtured, encouraged and used to bless others. We want to see students eager to learn and make the most of the learning experiences that they have at Chairo, and to use their initiative and seek opportunities to engage in the life of the school community.

Belonging to a sporting team, or volunteering to be part of the school musical, afford lessons that are difficult to learn in the regular classroom. Committing to extra practice, and giving up social time, shows diligence and dedication to an end goal.

Let's encourage our children to get involved and use what God has given them. Let's encourage them to persevere when things get a little tough. Let's encourage them to show 'stickability' and follow God's purpose for their lives.

Teachers at Chairo take the time to carefully consider the individual needs of students and endeavour to plan learning experiences that will enable all students to achieve. Each and every day, there is something new to discover.

It is through these experiences that students will continue to develop capability, character and commitment as teachers seek to prepare students for a world where they can make a positive difference, and can discover their purpose in Christ.

Jane Ward, Head of Teaching & Learning (Pakenham)

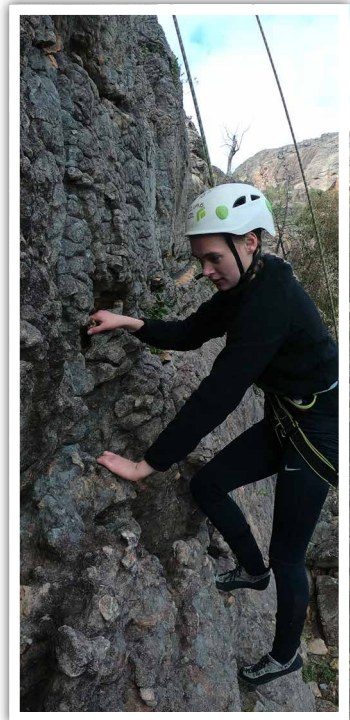
DATA COLLECTION – STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

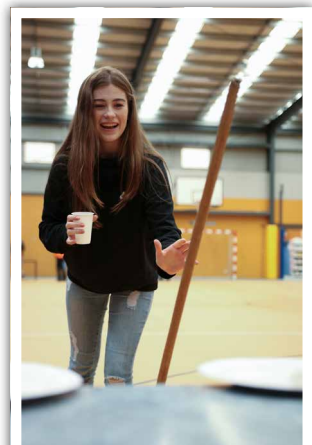
The NCCD (Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability) is an approach to data collection that provides all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with a clear picture of the number of students receiving educational adjustments because of disability in schools, and the levels of adjustment they are provided to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

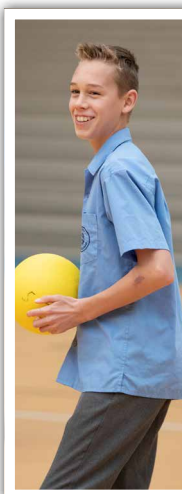
The Australian Education Regulation 2013 (Cth) requires the operators of all government and non-government schools that receive Australian Government schools funding to provide information to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training for the purposes of the NCCD.

Parents, guardians and carers who wish to understand more about the NCCD (including privacy arrangements and the collection, use and disclosure of information) are invited to read the NCCD information notice available at docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/2019-05-13_information_notice.pdf

PAKENHAM

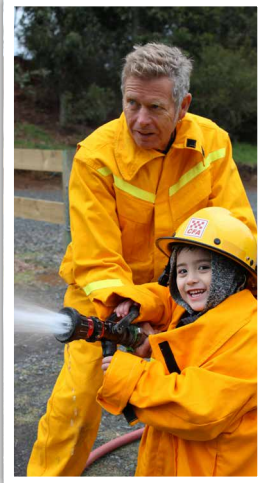
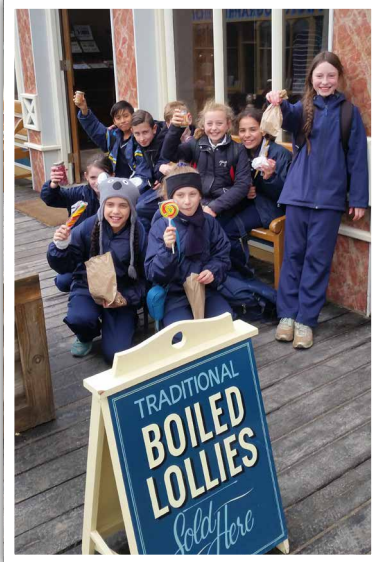








DROUIN & DROUIN EAST



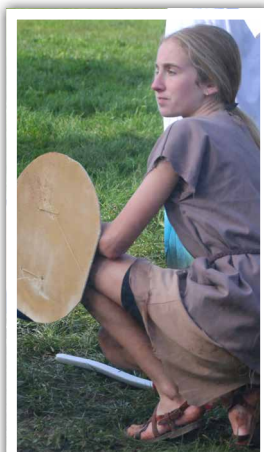


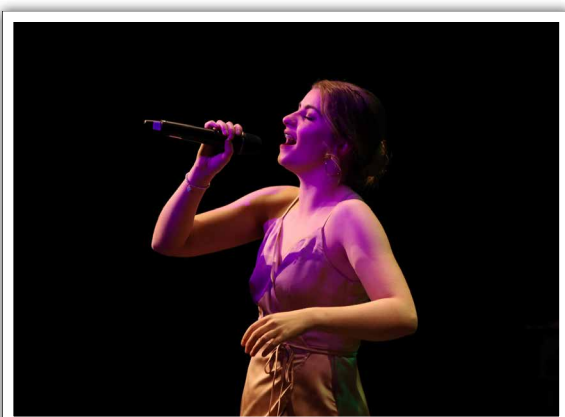
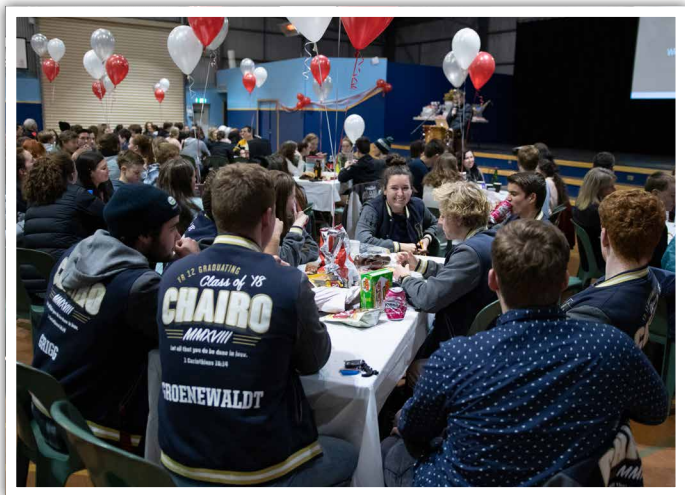
CHAIRO
Drouin Campus
Middle School
presents

an amateur production
ROALD DAHL'S

Charlie
AND THE
CHOCOLATE
FACTORY

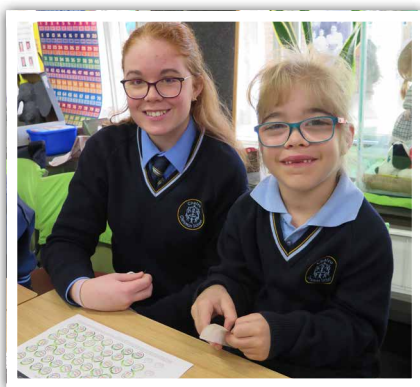
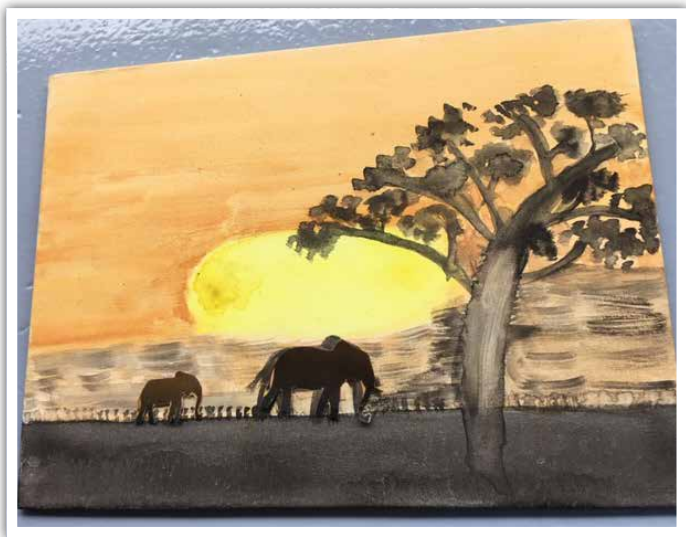
Fri 16 – Sat 17 August
7.30 pm at The Balfour
trybooking.com/BDOTJ adapted by RICHARD GEORGE





LEONGATHA





TRARALGON

As we come to the end of Semester 1, I would like to reflect on an incredibly busy and productive half year. We have enjoyed many events at our campus, such as Grandparent's Day, Mum's Night, The Biggest Morning (afternoon) Tea and National Simultaneous Story Time.

There were excursions to Inverloch, sport events, swimming and sports carnivals at Drouin and camps to Ballarat, Canberra and Lakes Entrance.

Multicultural Day was also a wonderful event. Thank you to all of the parents and carers for helping the students with their costumes and for providing amazing food to try. It was a fabulous celebration of the diversity in God's family.

Our Junior School students had an exciting finish to the term with an excursion to the Colin Buchanan concert at the Drouin Campus. Much learning has also taken place this semester including whole school assessments and participation in NAPLAN.

Staff have rallied through some illness and, in true team spirit, have kept the campus humming. I am grateful for God's provision of dedicated and passionate staff members whose desire is to help every child reach their full potential.

Thank you also to our wider community of parents, carers and friends who have encouraged, supported and engaged in discussions. This is true partnership and we value your contribution!

Thanks also to everyone who contributed to Rotary's 'Give a Damn, Give a Can' project. We amassed a terrific collection of 186 cans and these were gratefully received by Vinnies Food Bank.

Over the holiday period, most of our teaching staff members will be spending the first three days studying a unit called Biblical Foundations, and then some staff members will be attending the ITEC Conference in Adelaide on the three student-free days at the start of Term 3.

I know that these two events will have a great impact on everything that we do at our campus going forward and we are grateful to the Chairó leadership for making these opportunities possible.

As we finish the term, we will farewell two of our families who are relocating to other areas: the Aitkens to Warrnambool and the Macleans to Darwin. We pray God's greatest blessing on them and their new adventures. Next term, we welcome two new families and pray that they will have a smooth transition into our school community.

Have a wonderful, safe break and we look forward to seeing you in Term 3!

Keryn de Bruyn, Principal



Chairó Christian School *Presents*

Seussical JR.

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 6.30PM

CHAIRÓ CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, TRARALGON
2-10 LANSDOWNE RD

Entry by donation

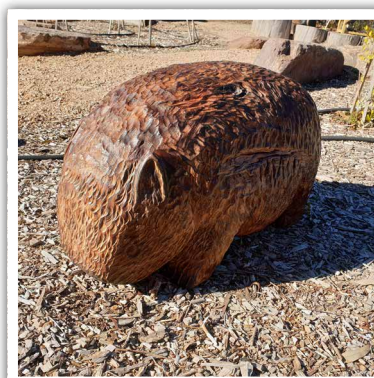
Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY** Lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS**

Book by LYNN AHRENS and STEPHEN FLAHERTY

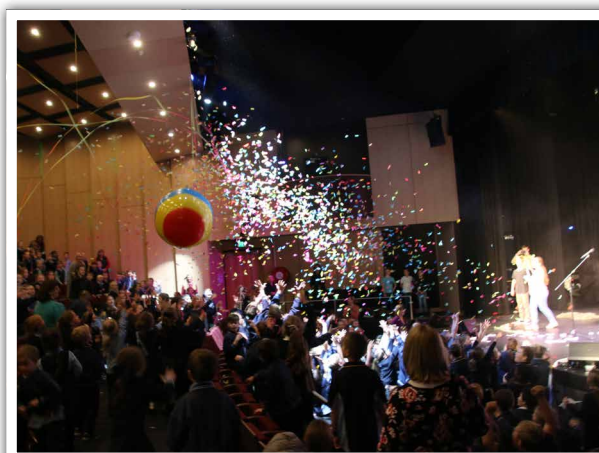
Co-Conceived by LYNN AHRENS, STEPHEN FLAHERTY and ERIC IDLE

Based on the Works of DR. SEUSS

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.



COLIN COMES TO CHAIRO



Chairo Christian School

ABN 12 451 824 370

WARRAGUL DISTRICT PARENT CONTROLLED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC. Reg. No. A5753

~ MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~

Thursday 23 May 2019, 7.30 pm

Chairo Cultural Centre, Drouin Campus

1. Attendance

- 1.1 **Full members present:** Jeff Calway, Mark Smith, Danielle Smith, Chris Dean, Julie Dean, Leon Pedersen, Andrew Jackson, Kerrie Jackson, Darryl Martin, Phil McCorriston, Rob Bruce, Marcus Van Heijst, Brian Tucker, Melissa Rumble, Helen Neumann, Lisa Nalder, Kris Breaden, Louise Hood, David Sollberger, Karen Thorpe, Allan Piening, Danielle Chew, Jason Chew
- 1.2 **Associate/graduate members present:** Lyndon Calway, Caroline Weatherhead, Simon Matthews, Keryn de Bruyn, Anine Kruger, Wijbren de Boer, Roger Simons, Tammy Williamson, Aaron Maidment, Anthony Collier, Simon Langner, Judy Linossier, Hans Pedersen, Christine Pedersen, Jeanette Breaden, Leigh Angus, Millie McLean, Cameron Marshall, Christine Marshall, Paula Loomes, Kristy Wilson, Tania Maunder, Shelly Beamish, Janet King, Rachel Ball, Peter Wells, Valwyn Wells, Nick McLean, Andrew Bradshaw, Tim Wight
- 1.3 **Others present:** Veronica Matthews, Erik Hofsink, Wes Jackson, Nick Piening, Brian Cox, Maureen Cox
- 1.4 **Apologies received:** Jane Ward, Medon Loupis, Lydia Tweedie, Michael van Leeuwen, Louisa Doherty, Mark Cutchie, Kym McLeod, Annette Martin, Merron Calway, Bruce King, Sam Nalder, Joanne Pederson

2. Opening

7:30

- 2.1 Jeff Calway welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new full member Kris Breaden and guest speaker Erik Hofsink, and then opened the meeting in prayer.

3. Musical item

7:35

- 3.1 Members of the Drouin Senior School jazz ensemble (The Chairs) performed *Stompin' at the Savoy* and *Watermelon Man*.

4. Devotion

7:42

- 4.1 Simon Matthews introduced Erik Hofsink, Principal of Emmaus Christian School and Public Advocate for AACS (Australian Association of Christian Schools). Erik then shared a devotion based on Jude. It is a call to assess our spiritual health, and an encouragement to know our Biblical history in order to protect ourselves from falling into the same sins.

5. General resolutions

7:57

- 5.1 **Resolved** on the motion of Julie Dean & Leon Pedersen that the apologies received be adopted.
- 5.2 **Resolved** on the motion of Kerrie Jackson & Darryl Martin that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 May 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
- 5.3 **Resolved** on the motion of Melissa Rumble & Mark Smith that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 15 November 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
- 5.4 **Resolved** on the motion of Christopher Dean & Melissa Rumble that the annual reports for 2018 by the Chairman, Executive Principal and Business Manager as distributed be received.

6. General business

8:00

6.1 Changes to Statement of Rules

Resolved on the motion of Kris Breaden & Danielle Smith that Rule 8 (15) in the Statement of Rules of the Warragul District Parent Controlled Christian School Association Incorporated be amended as below:

"Any parent or legal guardian of a child currently enrolled at and attending the School (other than in kindergarten only) who has been an associate member of the Association for ~~six months one year~~ or more may apply in writing to the Board to become a full member of the Association."

7. Financial report

8:04

7.1 Financial results for 2018

Roger Simons reported that we had a total of 1,502 students from Prep to Year 12 (plus 127 in kindergarten) in 2018, with our debt per student being \$4,666. We had a bank debt of almost \$7M and generated a surplus of \$416K for the year. Revenue from capital grants was \$657K and capital expenditure was just over \$6M.

Chairo Christian School

ABN 12 451 824 370

WARRAGUL DISTRICT PARENT CONTROLLED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC. Reg. No. A5753

~ MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~

7.2 Budget for 2019

Roger Simons reported that the budget for 2019 reflects a student population of 1,551 from Prep to Year 12, with a further 151 in kindergarten, and a slightly reduced debt per student of \$4,540. Bank debt is planned to be just over \$7M, with a cash surplus of \$507K. Revenue of \$7.89M is expected from tuition fees, with a further \$16.18M coming from the Commonwealth Government and \$4.57M from the State Government.

7.3 Projects for 2019

Roger Simons reported that the Pakenham Library project was completed in 2018, while both the Drouin Performing Arts Centre and the Leongatha Kindergarten were commenced in 2018 and finalised early in 2019. A portable building was transferred from Traralgon to Drouin East at the start of 2019 and is now being used by two classes. The scheduled capital expenditure for this year is approximately \$2.76M, which includes the freshly completed Stage 1 and soon-to-commence Stage 2 of the Pakenham Senior School Centre. A grant application has also been lodged for a Middle School classroom block at the Pakenham Campus.

7.4 Financial resolutions

Chris Dean thanked Roger Simons and the finance team, and then led the meeting in a prayer of thanks to God for his provision.

Resolved on the motion of Melissa Rumble & Mark Smith that the audited annual Financial Statements for 2018 as distributed be accepted as an accurate representation of the financial position of the Warragul District Parent Controlled Christian School Association Incorporated.

Resolved on the motion of Brian Tucker & Kerrie Jackson that Gordon Robertson of Findex be appointed as the auditor for 2019 for the Warragul District Parent Controlled Christian School Association Incorporated.

8. Guest speaker

8:26

8.1 Erik Hofsink spoke about how advocacy and positive action on behalf of Christian schools are vitally important tasks for peak bodies, school leaders and parents. Such advocacy and action should always be based on an expression of the value that Christian schools bring to local communities and why families want this choice – not on false ideas about our communities being exclusive and only for some.

Government funding and good legislation are also vital to ensuring that parents have a genuine choice when selecting the right school. Given the current political climate in Australia, now is the right time to engage with local politicians, giving them an understandable experience of what it means to be in our school communities.

Erik highlighted that strong and supportive school communities such as Chairo have a key role to play in ensuring that politicians, and the community more generally, hear about the importance of Christian schools and what they seek to offer to Australian society.

Simon Matthews thanked Erik for his work and prayed for him.

9. Reports

9:07

9.1 Operational plans

Simon Matthews provided a report regarding our operational plans, which flow out of the strategic plan that was launched late in 2017, and cover each campus as well as Student Welfare, Library Services, Learning Support, Human Resources, ICT, Executive Leadership Team and Kindergartens.

The strategic plan, owned and developed by the Board, is communicated to the Association as a means of indicating the direction in which the Board will lead the school over the coming years. It is also used by senior leaders and their teams across the school to guide their operational priorities and decisions.

The Board is now receiving twelve operational plans from campus and team leaders across the school. These plans communicate to the Board the initiatives and goals that these leaders are pursuing over the coming twelve months that will lead to achieving the Board's higher-level strategic intentions.

Simon thanked the Principals and other leaders for working diligently within the new system and reporting clearly about the work that they have been doing.

10. Closure

9:12

10.1 Rob Bruce closed the meeting in prayer at 9.12 pm and invited everyone to stay for a time of fellowship over supper in the gallery area.