

OLA Advisory Council Chair Report 2023

It is with great privilege that I present this year's Chairperson's Report for the OLA Advisory Council.

On behalf of the Advisory council, I'd like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the OLA Leadership Team, comprising Greg Martin, Mike Morris, and Anella Tollis. After three turbulent years marked by the challenges of the Covid pandemic and lockdowns, we were finally able to welcome 2023 with a more conventional start to the school year. The tireless commitment and focus of the leadership team in supporting the staff and students at OLA deserve our highest praise.

I also wish to express my deepest gratitude to the teaching and administrative staff of OLA. Your valuable contributions to the education and well-being of our students have been unwavering throughout the past year in maintaining the highest standards in learning. The remarkable academic achievements of our students in 2023, as evidenced by this year's NAPLAN results, speak to your dedication and commitment.

I would also like to acknowledge our devoted staff who generously offered their time for various before and after-school activities, enriching the lives of our students both inside and outside the classroom. This commitment was integral in making OLA the exceptional school it is today.

I wish to extend my thanks to my fellow members of the OLA Advisory Council for their time and steadfast commitment in supporting the various projects and overseeing the management of the school's financial budget this year. The transformation of the school's financial position from just a few short years ago to its current state is truly commendable to all involved.

The OLA Advisory Council met once per term in 2023 and joining myself, along with the Leadership team and Father Ken were:

- Narelle Roberts – Deputy Chair
- Mark La Cava – Treasurer
- Karen Meleca – Secretary
- Amanda Reid – Elected member
- Edmund O'Halloran – Parish Representative
- Deanna Marocchi – P & F Representative
- Judith Hille – Finance Officer

Through careful consideration and with assistance from the Leadership Team and OLA Council members, the Advisory Council was able to successfully complete several significant milestones under the school's current Strategic Plan.

Early in the year, new House shields were affixed to the exterior of Sr. Goretti Hall, with the students learning about the significance of each crest and the history of the school. The upgrading of the halls AV system was also completed with the installation of two high quality monitors, which replaced the ageing projector system.

New student House gazebos adorned with their faction crests were organized and purchased, which along with students receiving new sports jerseys generously donated by the P&F committee, allow our OLA athletic teams to proudly represent themselves and the school at various interschool events.

The Leadership team, along with the support of the OLA Advisory Council and teaching staff, undertook the successful implementation of the school Stream application. This has greatly reduced the administrative burden placed on OLA staff in communicating information to parents throughout the school year.

Later in the year, the school undertook the resurfacing of the outside courts and installed several basketball rings for student use. Alongside the new lawn and greening of the new areas, this now provides the students with multiple valuable spaces for sports and recreation.

I would like to acknowledge council member Mark La Cava who is retiring this year after serving a total of seven years as an elected member, and more recently has been invaluable in his role as treasurer for OLA.

I am also retiring from my position as Chair after serving the last four years on the Advisory Council. I consider myself fortunate to have been associated with such a remarkable school as OLA and to have been involved in many of these projects. I depart with a sense of pride and satisfaction in what has been achieved and still to achieve in the concluding years of our current Strategic Plan.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to all who have contributed to the continued growth and success of OLA. Your dedication and unwavering support have made a significant impact on our students' lives and the overall development of our school. I eagerly anticipate even more remarkable achievements in the years ahead.

Nigel Swavley

OLA Advisory Council Chair 2023