



Mary MacKillop  
Memorial School  
we care

# 2023 AGM Report

Wednesday the 21st of February  
2024 at 6pm



## School Board 2024 AGM

Wednesday 21st Feb 2024, 6pm  
Agenda

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|--|------------------------------|
| 1. WELCOME   | Tom Pearce                   |
| 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY  | Kaitlyn Lusty                |
| 3. OPENING PRAYER  | Sam Baxter                   |
| 4. APOLOGIES   |                              |
| 5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM   |                              |
| 6. BUSINESS ARISING  |                              |
| 7. REPORTS   |                              |
| Chairperson  | Tom Pearce                   |
| Finance  | Janice Coote / Leticia Gosse |
| Principal  | Nicole Coote                 |
| 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS  |                              |
| 9. ELECTIONS - Fr Peter  |                              |
| 10. CLOSE OF MEETING   |                              |
| 11. Members of the new school board will meet briefly following the end of the meeting to elect the executive. |                              |



MARY MACKILLOP  
PENOLA

**Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board  
AGM Minutes  
Held on 15th Feb 2023 at 6.05pm at MMMS**

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**Present:** Sr. Loreto, Fr Arul Dev, Janice Coote, Sam Baxter, Leticia Gosse, Tom Pearce, Danielle Heazelwood, Kaitlyn Lusty, Ashlee Fensom, Alison Smith, Lauren Miller, Glenn Tucker, Amanda Flint

**Apologies:** Ashley Braun, Sr. Loreto, Cath Kidman, Romi Eckermann, Jen Eckermann

**Prayer:** Nicole Coote

**Welcome:** Tom Pearce welcomed all to the meeting along with an acknowledgment of country by Kaitlyn Lusty

**1. Confirmation of Previous Meeting**

Moved Tom Pearce, seconded Kaitlyn Lusty (carried)

**2. Chairpersons Report - see attached, tabled at meeting**

Moved Tom Pearce, seconded Alison Smith (carried)

**3. Principal's Report/Annual Report - see attached, tabled at meeting**

Moved Tom Pearce, seconded Glenn Tucker (carried)

**4. Finance Report - see attached, presented by Janice Coote and tabled**

Moved Janice Coote, seconded Tom Pearce (carried)

**5. Parish Report - nil**

## **6. 2022 Board Members**

### **6.1 Ex Officio Members:**

Fr. Dev – Parish Priest

Nicole Coote – School Principal

### **6.2 Appointed Member:**

Sr. Loreto

Staff Member

### **6.3 Elected Members:**

Nicole Reschke – term complete (no re-nomination)

Tracey Brokken – term complete (no re-nomination)

Amanda Flint – end of 1st term

Tom Pearce – end of 1st term

Glenn Tucker – 1st term, 1 year remaining

Leticia Gosse – 2nd term, 1 year remaining

Ashley Braun – 2nd term, 1 year remaining

## **7. Vacancies for 2023 Board: Four vacancies declared.**

## **8. Nominations Received:**

Tom Pearce (2nd term) - accepted  
Amanda Flint (2nd term) - accepted  
Tom Giles (1st term) - accepted  
Liz Rymill (1st term) - accepted  
Cath Kidman (1st term) - accepted

All in favour of five nominations - accepted.

## **9. General Business**

9.1 Stand like stone - request to use school hall during the Arts Festival for Recycled Fashion Pop-Up

**First meeting to be held 15th Feb 2023, following the AGM**

**Meeting Closed 6.15pm**

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Annual General Meeting 2023**

This AGM Principal's Report is a reflection paper on the 2023 school year and is in line with the requirements of the Schools Assistance Act.

It gives me great pleasure to present the School Board Annual General Meeting Principal's Report for the 2023 school year. I undertake responsibility to lead a school community and I am committed to ongoing success. This report is one that is built from a deep sense of pride and gratitude for all that has been accomplished in 2023.

### **2023 Commitment:**

This year our school committed to being innovative and to build our practices in the following domains:

1 Catholic Identity

2 High Expectations

3 Excellence in achievement

4 Innovative learning spaces

5 Curriculum and co-constructed learning and assessment design

6 Student agency

### **Catholic Identity**

The Catholic Identity of our school continues to be nurtured by staff and students and in a range of ways. As we were unable to appoint a Religious Education Coordinator in 2023, I took on this role as religious leader. In this capacity I led the community throughout the year in religious celebrations such as; St Joseph Feast Day, Lent, Project Compassion, Holy Week, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day, Founders Week and Advent to name a few. Our community raised money to go towards Project Compassion through Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day and money and goods from the St Vinnies Winter Appeal. We donated funds to Mary MacKillop Today, who support organisations in Timor-Leste and the community generously donated to the Giving Tree, which aided those in our region.

We celebrated what it means to be involved in Catholic Education in South Australia during Catholic Education Week and throughout the year all staff and students were involved in learning and deepening their scriptural and spiritual knowledge through prayer. Classes visited the Mary MacKillop Interpretative Centre and engaged with other Catholic Schools in the South-East to spread our knowledge of Australia's first saint.

Our student's faith was further enhanced through Class Masses and Liturgies, including whole school Liturgies and Masses for Feast Days and other celebrations. The Sacramental Program concluded with 21 children celebrating Confirmation and First Holy Communion. A number of these children then went on to be trained, under the guidance of Fr Olek, Fr Peter and Sam Baxter, to be altar servers.

### **Early Learning**

Our school continues to play an important role in the community providing an Early Years program, consisting of Occasional Care (3-5 year old program) and Playgroup. In 2023 Occasional Care was facilitated by Ashlee Fensom, where numbers remained consistent throughout the year with 4 - 5 children attending. SPiCE (Supported Playgroup in Catholic Education) Playgroup is a platform that provided opportunities for families to engage with our school. In 2023 it was run on a Friday morning from 9.30 - 11 for any families with children aged between 0 - 5 years. Kathy Dempsey capably led our Playgroup, with strong attendance on a regular basis.

In Term 4 we offered a comprehensive transition program for those children starting school in 2024, titled Joey's Jumpstart. The extended transition was very well received by parents and children and assisted in new students feeling comfortable in their environment, with the educators and with other students.

### **Community**

2023 was full of a variety of opportunities for our community to come together. We held a very successful Gather and Grow Afternoon and Information Sessions presented by each classroom teacher. A fantastic Quiz Night was enjoyed by many, along with Christmas Carols and BBQ, Mother's Day and Grandparents and Special Friends afternoons, Ladies Dinner Night, Father's Day breakfast, Seesaw Parent Information Workshop, a parent presentation by Professor Kurt Lushington around Screen Time to Dream Time, along with The Arts Festival, Remembrance Day, Anzac Day and the Acoustic Music Festival, to name a few. Being a part of the community is an important part of our Strategic Planning.

A successful whole school Musical was held in 2023- Peter Pan captivated the community, with exceptional dramatic acting, engaging choreography, and harmonious singing by all students, capably directed by our Arts teacher, Miss Kaitlyn Lusty and the staff of Mary MacKillop Memorial School. We held two matinees and two evening performances, all of which were well attended by other schools, community members and parishioners. The event continues to be an enormously positive experience for all students, building on a number of capabilities. It also provides the platform to showcase our school to the wider community.

In 2023 the MacKillop Markets operated at the Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival. This enterprise consisted of selling produce from our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden that was surplus, along with all students making items to sell. The market provided students in Year 4/5/6 to investigate how to run a business and encompassed many new skills, such as; advertising, pricing, picking and displaying and selling.

While we no longer run a Parent Club, the opportunity for community collegiality is great and the feeling of belonging remains strong. The Just One Thing letter continued to assist in coordinating families to help out in a number of ways.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities and Learning**

In 2023 camps were a highlight with the Year 2/3 class visiting the Naracoorte Caves for a one-night camp. The R/1 class enjoyed their excursion to Millicent, engaging in a number of experiences. The Year 4/5 two-night camp ventured to the Grampians, a very different experience than the usual Robe destination. The Grampians provided a unique experience for all students. Our Year 6 group joined St Anthony's Catholic Primary School in Millicent for an action-packed camp in Adelaide.

Students had the opportunity to engage in Sporting School programs throughout the year. These sports included soccer, basketball, swimming and surf lifesaving. They also engaged in clinics run by different sporting agencies.

### **Student Leadership**

Student leadership is an integral part of the culture at Mary MacKillop Memorial School. The key components are service, community outreach and personal development. Key student leadership groups are; School Captains, House Captains, Choir Leaders, Student Representative Council members and Young Environmental Group leaders, who lead initiatives in sustainability in our school.



## **Inclusivity**

Our school is a place of authentic inclusivity, catering to the best of its ability for students with specific needs. In 2023, students were supported by Personalised Plan for Learning (PPL) and Individualised Learning Plans (ILP). Programs and support provided by the school's own resources and other funding through the NCCD (National Consistent Collection of Data) aided all students to achieve their goals. All students set their learning goals, in consultation with their classroom teacher each semester and revisited these goals regularly. Their goals were communicated to parents during Learning Conversations in Term One.

## **Wellbeing**

Throughout 2023 wellbeing continued to be a focus for our school community. In 2023 we employed a School Counsellor for one day a fortnight. Dale Domleo, Kaitlyn Lusty as Inclusive Education and Wellbeing Coordinator, and I as Principal, formed the 'Wellbeing Team' and we worked closely to support the wellbeing needs of all students. R U OK?, Bullying No Way! And Harmony Day featured strongly in our school and student leaders were engaged to lead a variety of activities to highlight these important days and their educational message.

We further developed our strategies to assist students in wellbeing, using the What-What-How tools from the Life Buoyancy Institute and learning to develop intentional growth action plans as well as strengthening the Kimochis program with our younger students. This work took us deeper into looking below the surface of each child and their complexities to cater for their needs emotionally, fostering positive wellbeing.

All staff who had not been trained in Resilient Impact undertook this training with the Life Buoyancy Institute, while other staff were further trained in developing growth action plans and making deeper connections with students, particularly those identified as vulnerable. Strategies and practices were effectively implemented and utilised by staff to support the needs of all children. We worked closely as a staff with the Life Buoyancy Institute to reflect and review our Personal Responsibility Policy so that it aligned with Resilient Impact language and actions. Completing our new policy at the conclusion of 2023.

## **Pedagogies and Practices: Professional Learning**

Staff remain committed to providing meaningful and excellent learning opportunities for all students with a focus on student agency and co-constructed learning. All staff accessed professional learning opportunities and looked to build on their professional practices, referring to the ATSIL standards, the Living Learning Leading Standards and the Clarity Learning Suite. A culture of being innovative and change agents has been lived out by all staff throughout the year.

Seesaw became a tool where students and teachers were able to communicate their learning regularly, with a focus on providing timely communication to parents of their child's learning progress.

## **Staffing and School Resources**

In 2023 we welcomed Ashlee Fensom to Mary MacKillop Memorial School. Ashlee took on the role of Yr 2/3 class teacher and Occasional Care educator with a focus on the Early Years. We acknowledged and farewelled Kathy O'Connell and her dedication and commitment to Mary MacKillop Memorial School as she resigned (retired) at the end of 2023.

Student numbers decreased in 2023 to 74. We maintained four classes in 2023 which continued our flexibility to provide greater learning opportunities for our students as learning needs were spread over four classes. Financially, the school is well poised for ongoing success. In 2023 we began our engagement with enrolment and marketing company Eddee School Engagement Services. This service assisted us to adapt to the unique qualities and circumstances of our school and actively promote our school positively in the community. The intent of this work is to grow our school.

School resources continue to be monitored and new resources purchased as required. A cyclic plan for continual upgrading of Laptops and I pads has continued with further purchasing building towards a one device for each student in the near future.

I wish to thank the active and committed members of Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board, including Fr Peter, Sr Loreto, and the excellent and dedicated staff. Both groups have devoted their time and passion to the mission, vision and values of the school. It is a privilege to lead a vibrant school community with the support of the Board, staff, families and students.

To the school board, Tom Pearce our chairperson, thank you for your commitment, careful deliberations and vision for our school. Thank you to all school board members for your support of the future for Mary MacKillop Memorial School.

Being a part of an inclusive and caring community that aspires to provide the best opportunities for our children to succeed is a very rewarding aspect of this role. Witnessing the growth in our children and staff this year only serves to further motivate me to continue to build on our vision and be proud to lead a Christ-centred, child-focused Catholic School at Mary Mac. There are many exciting times ahead and I am grateful for the chance to be involved. I continue to be inspired by our founder St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and look forward to all striving to thrive and flourish in 2024.

Nicole Coote  
PRINCIPAL

### **Chairperson's Report**

This year, with various educator movements we saw several positions become available at the school. It was great to see so many quality applicants for the positions. One thing that stood out for me with each applicant was the passion and love they have for teaching and sharing with our children and how they recognised just how important their role is in shaping the foundation of a child's education and life experience and how it was not to be taken for granted.

Just how highly they all thought of the school also came across strongly and I am, as you all should be, immensely proud of the culture created overtime within the school that draws such quality people to it. A massive part of this is due to the great teaching staff and the administration. So on behalf of the greater school community, I thank you all very much.

I would also like to thank all the staff of MMMS for providing our children with such a safe, fun, and respectful learning environment. One thing I am particularly proud of is the empathy and care our children show for each other.

Principal Nicole Coote, again, has driven to school through another great year. We have been fortunate to have had great principals at Mary MacKillop Memorial School, but Nicole has taken it a step further with her passion for education and drive to make the school the success it is today.

And as always, a special thanks to Janice Coote for all her work with the school finances and everything else she does.

We were treated to the cultural feast that is the school musical, one of my favourite school events. What a wonderful production of Peter Pan and fantastic to see every single child of the school play a part. Thank you to Kaitlyn Lusty and her production team for putting in a massive effort to deliver to us such a magnificent performance to a sellout crowd over several nights.

Thank you to the school board for all your time and efforts over the past year. Everyone is busy and getting busier it seems, your willingness to serve on the board is greatly appreciated.

Again, thanks to Squish and her band of helpers with organising the quiz night. A hall packed and everyone having a great time with many looking to coming back for next year is a sure sign of a successful night.

The school board is a great way to get involved with the school, we will have positions available, so please consider putting your hand up.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our year sixes on completing their primary education journey and wish them all the best with their futures. I know they will go with kindness, empathy, honesty and care, all hall marks of a Mary MacKillop Memorial School education.

Tom Pearce  
CHAIRPERSON SCHOOL BOARD