

Kearnan College AGM 2020 – Chairperson Report

- Welcome to our final meeting of what has been an interesting year to say the least. I stepped into the position of Chairperson in March this year from the position of secretary, which I commenced early 2019. This has been a steep learning curve and I must thank all those that have helped me into this new role, your support has been amazing.
- At the beginning of 2020 we welcomed Carol in an interim position after fare welling Jason at conclusion of 2019. Carol came in like a fresh breeze with new perspective and I think we have certainly benefited from the physical improvements carried out on the school site and her enthusiasm has been most uplifting.
- Our school had entered a period of transition as we entered what we planned on being a period of stabilizing and growth, a time of building on our fantastic foundations to take us into the future. During this time, we commenced the process of appointing a new Principal for our future, which was another very large element of our future and required great consideration.
- Then came COVID. Such unprecedented times and I am ever thankful that we had not yet appointed a new Principal and that we had Carol's amazing experience and knowledge to lead our school community through such unknown territory. It was during March when COVID all came upon us most abruptly that I stepped officially into the role of Chair Person and the exercise of appointing a new Principal was placed on hold until further notice at which time we were lucky enough to secure Carol's position for the remainder of 2020.
- I am so impressed with how our entire staff, students and parents represented Kearnan College during the COVID period. Social distancing Zoom and Teams Meetings amongst other terminology became an accepted level of "normal" for all of us. The amazing teachers and associated staff members continued caring for our students when they were not sure of their own safety at such a time and they continued to place our children first. They adapted to the social distancing requirements, new procedures, new rules & guidelines as well as online education. What an amazing feat!
- I know many parents were envious of Kearnan College's approach to the COVID requirements and in particular the amazing effort that went into the school drop off and collection, during our lovely winter months the teachers and staff were out there rain, hail or shine.
- As we entered to a slightly more normal phase after the initial COVID concerns we took an amazing step forward in our future by appointing Carol as our Principal until the end of 2022, at which time I hope to keep her longer!
- During this unorthodox year we saw many events cancelled and/ or postponed including school camps, fundraisers, uniform changes and sports carnivals. Although we did manage to appoint house mascots, which has been very well received. However, during this year, we still as a school managed many achievements. We continued forward with physical improvements to the school site with a new roof for

our administrative building, installation of the new blinds with some tweaks, and new iMacs amongst other things. We commenced new gardening ventures as we said goodbye to Bill Cover (16 years of gardening for us).

- Our senior students have worked their way through uncertain times of this year with ATAR on their horizon, their maturity for young adults in this time has been fantastic and they all eagerly venture forward into a very bright and promising future.
- Our P & F although limited this year has been one of fantastic enthusiasm and I cannot wait to see what they bring to the table as they are let free to explore some further options in the future.
- Leman Street development is still very much on our agenda and during this year we have made steady progress on this, we hope to see some interesting development on that for 2021. As with our Kindergarten ablutions block.
- What had commenced as a proposed year of growth for us became a year of stabilizing in preparation for our future growth. I am happy to report that there will be a dual stream of Year 7 classes and our numbers have remained at a similar status to 2019.
- As with the conclusion of any year there will be some change in staffing, we wish all those who are leaving our wonderful Kearnan College community all the best in their future endeavors and we warmly welcome our new staff members to our family.
- A special thankyou to Fr. Edwin and the Parish, the strong underlying Catholic Ethos is the most amazing foundation for our children, and they are better equipped for this ever changing world. In trying times this has brought such comfort to many.
- Further special thanks to Kim Brotherton, working through change of software, audit restrictions, new processes and tough budgeting – we would be lost without her.
- Finally, many thanks to my fellow board members, all the school volunteers, parents, guardians, teachers and other staff members. Our school has such strength in our family like community that pulls together in tough times and always looks out for one another. We all make the school what it is, every little element contributes to the success that we achieve and celebrate. Our school not only succeeds academically but also in so many other fields of sports, art and more. We have the pure delight in seeing our wonderful students excel in life itself as bright, educated, caring beings, qualities that are well noticed by all accounts. Our foundations are strong, and you build upon this in such an amazing manner, you should all be very proud of yourselves. Carol our leader, who has quite literally led us through the most uncertain times, we thank you for shining the light so we can follow. Many thanks also to your husband for sharing you so selflessly.

Signed
Dianna Western