



ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT 2025

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – 2025

ALLEN MCMAHON

2025 has been another year of faith, learning, and community at St Columba's. We were blessed to share in Fr Nino's first full year as our parish priest, and our partnership with him has been both fruitful and joy-filled. This year, our parish celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation—moments of grace and growth for our students. I extend my thanks to Fr Nino, Mr Yock, our classroom teachers, and our Parish Liturgy representatives for preparing such reverent and memorable celebrations. Our classes also led many beautiful liturgies and Masses, both in the church and at school, nurturing the prayer life of our community.

Once again, St Columba's can be proud of the dedication of its staff—our classroom teachers, education assistants, specialist staff, and support personnel—who give so generously of their time and talents to enrich the lives of our students. Staff can never be thanked enough for the quality of their work and the love they bring to their vocation. This year, we farewell several staff members. A special thank you to our Assistant Principal Mr Yock who is leaving St Columba's this year to take on the role of Principal at Queen of Apostles School Riverton, a well-deserved appointment. We thank them sincerely for their service and professionalism, and we pray for blessings as they move into the next stage of their careers.

Our School Improvement Plan has continued to guide our teaching and learning priorities. This year we focused on implementing a whole-school approach to curriculum, with particular attention to the Science of Reading and the introduction of *Oxford Maths* across classrooms. The RULER wellbeing program has also played a central role in helping students grow in emotional awareness and resilience. Our School Counsellor has further supported this work, providing students with guidance in building confidence, positive relationships, and coping strategies.

To our graduating Year Six students: we send you forward with pride and prayer. As you prepare to embrace the new opportunities and challenges of secondary school, may you carry with you the values of faith, compassion, and perseverance instilled here at St Columba's. To the families who now complete their journey with us, we thank you for your commitment and trust, and we wish you every blessing for the years ahead.

The School Board has once again served our community with dedication. In addition to their careful stewardship of our finances, several key projects were completed this year, including the replacement of the Pre-Primary fence, painting of classrooms and external areas, and the creation of the Mary MacKillop mural and grotto. I am grateful to all Board members for their wise counsel and commitment to ensuring the ongoing growth and strength of our school.

Our Parents & Friends Association has also had a busy and highly successful year. From fundraising efforts to community celebrations—including the Easter Egg Drive and the Mother's, Father's, and Grandparents' Day events—their hard work and creativity have enriched the life of our school. I thank

the Executive and all parents who have contributed their time and talents so generously in the spirit of service.

I would also like to acknowledge the many individuals who keep our school running so smoothly each day. Thanks to Mr Timmermans and Greenworx for maintaining our grounds so beautifully, and to our office staff—Mrs Venturini, Mrs Creek, Mrs Foster, and Mrs Griffin—for their professionalism, efficiency, and care. To our education assistants, library staff, and canteen workers, I offer my sincere thanks for your tireless efforts, which make a real difference in the daily life of our school.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to our many volunteers—parents, carers, and friends—whose generosity has made countless school activities and initiatives possible. Your willingness to serve is a living example of our school motto: *“Faith, Service, Courage.”*

As we approach Christmas, may the words of **Luke 2:14** be our prayer: *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”* May the joy of Christ’s birth fill your homes, and may the New Year bring peace, happiness, and blessings to you all.

God bless,
Allen McMahon
Principal

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR’S REPORT 2025

PHIL HORNER

As we come to the close of another school year, it’s a pleasure to reflect on what has been a vibrant and productive 2025 at St Columba’s. This year has been one of progress, community spirit, and shared achievement—qualities that continue to make our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Throughout the year, several enhancements were made to ensure our facilities remain safe, welcoming, and conducive to learning. The replacement of the Pre-Primary fence and the refreshing coat of paint across the veranda areas have both contributed to a brighter, safer environment for students and families. With generous support from our wonderful Parents and Friends Association, the junior playground Softfall was also replaced, providing our younger learners with an improved play space. While renovations to the parish presbytery brought some temporary changes to playground access, these works will ultimately strengthen the parish community and help it flourish in the years ahead.

In terms of our strategic priorities, 2025 marked strong progress across several key pillars. A formal audit of the Community pillar was completed, focusing on the areas of risk assessment, work health and safety, and adherence to the Code of Conduct. This review reaffirmed our strong culture of care, safety, and accountability. Our teachers continued their professional development in the Science of Reading, ensuring that literacy teaching across the school remains grounded in best practice and supported by current research.

Meanwhile, the school’s commitment to student wellbeing continues to deepen. The RULER and Kimochi

programs are now well established and are producing tangible results, helping students develop greater emotional awareness, empathy, and resilience. The initiative to create a Calm School Environment has also become fully embedded in daily practice, with both internal and external feedback highlighting the positive impact it has had on the overall tone and culture of the school.

The Parents and Friends Association once again delivered an exceptional year of activity, contributing enormously to the life and spirit of the school. Through their tireless efforts, students were able to access a rich variety of subsidised sporting opportunities in soccer, rugby, volleyball, and netball, as well as engaging after-school programs such as Chess Club and Tech Club. The calendar of community events was as lively as ever, beginning with the Outdoor Movie Night in Term 1, the Dad's Campout and followed by the celebrations for Mothers', Fathers' and Grandparents' Day, and culminating in the always-popular Colour Carnival, which was once again a highlight of the year. The P&F's enthusiasm, professionalism, and generosity continue to enrich the experience of every St Columba's family.

As a community, we also take great pride in the achievements of our staff, whose dedication and passion ensure our students continue to thrive. Their commitment to excellence has resulted in providing a breadth of opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom—encompassing sporting development, academic achievement, creative expression, faith development, and community service.

This year, students once again showed a strong sense of compassion and social responsibility through initiatives such as Project Compassion and the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal, both of which provided meaningful support to those in need. The sporting achievements of our students were equally impressive, with strong performances across athletics, swimming, netball, football, cricket, and cross-country events at both intra- and interschool levels. Academic and creative success was also evident through participation in competitions such as RoboCup, the South Perth Writers Awards, and local art exhibitions, showcasing the diverse talents of our students and the highlighting the richness of the learning opportunities available to them.

As we reflect on the year that was, it's clear that St Columba's continues to flourish—thanks to the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of our families and parish.

On behalf of all members of the Advisory Council I extend my thanks to everyone who has contributed to another outstanding year. I look forward with great optimism to 2026 and to the continued growth and success of our wonderful school community.

Warm regards,
Phil Horner
Chairperson, School Advisory Council