



ST AGNES' PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHETT

St Agnes' School Advisory Council – Chair Report 2025

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone working behind the scenes to ensure that St Agnes' Primary School continues to thrive. On behalf of the school community, I would also like to thank our dedicated teachers and staff for their unwavering commitment to our children this year.

This year, we welcomed many new students and families to the school. I hope you have found St Agnes' to be a very warm and welcoming community and that your first year at St Agnes' has been a positive one.

The School Advisory Council (SAC) has met regularly throughout 2025, engaging in numerous discussions around certain key areas. Highlights for 2025 have included:

- The Masterplan and future enrolment projections
- Capital works projects, including potential updates to classrooms above the school hall
- Planning for two prep classes in 2026
- Review of School fees
- Analysis of NAPLAN results
- Successful recruitment of the new Principal, Mr Thomas Hartney

Key highlights for the school community in 2025 included the school Production: Finding Nemo, the Mother's, Father's and Grandparent's Day Breakfasts and Liturgies, the Easter Bonnet and Book Week Parades, the Walkathon, and the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. These events are made possible by the dedication and hard work of all the volunteers who ensure each event is a resounding success. We truly appreciate the time and effort everyone puts into making these events successful.

Thank you to our very active P&F Committee for another successful year of fundraising. The funds raised for a small school are remarkable and are a testament to your efforts and commitment. The fundraising activities this year including the Mother's Day dinner, Rodeo social night, Trash and Treasure Stall, and the Walkathon have been earmarked to fund the replacement of the main adventure playground equipment. We also celebrate the weekly barbeques and icy poles; all efforts, big and small are appreciated. We look forward to the 2026 St Agnes' Fete contributing further to this exciting project.

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Light in Darkness.

At the end of 2025, we say goodbye to our Principal, Lachlan Foott. Since joining in 2019, Lachie has led the school through significant challenges, including the COVID-19 shutdowns. He has built a strong team and overseen many critical improvements across learning and teaching, wellbeing and facility upgrades. Please join me in thanking Lachie for his significant contributions to St Agnes' and wishing him and his family all the very best with the next chapter.

We are pleased to welcome Thomas Hartney as our new Principal for the 2026 school year. Tom is the current Deputy Principal of St Joseph's Elsternwick and brings with him strong leadership experience in all school operations and significant expertise in Learning and Teaching. Tom has already met a number of children and members of the St Agnes' community, and there is positive excitement surrounding his appointment.

St Agnes' growth continues in 2026, with us welcoming **37** new Prep students across two Prep classes (including **24** new families), alongside additional students in other year levels. This brings our expected total enrolments in 2026 to around **185** students. We are anticipating similar growth in 2027. This growth is a credit to the work undertaken by Lachlan Foott and the leadership team in promoting St Agnes' within the community. It is also testament to our wonderful community spreading the word about St Agnes'.

Thank you to all SAC members for their dedicated contribution this year: Fiona Newington (Secretary), Carly Monahan, Joshua Ryan, Martin Cox, Karen McGoldrick, Caroline Cunningham, Amanda Baker, and our outgoing Principal, Lachlan Foott.

We have such a great school community at St Agnes', and I urge you to get involved where you can. We have many amazing people and it is very rewarding getting to know the people around us in our school community.

As always, please feel free to raise any concerns or opportunities you may see within the school to your SAC representatives. The SAC is your voice to contribute to the school's leadership, so please continue to seek them out.

Kind regards,

Felicity Langley

St Agnes' School Advisory Council Chair



ST AGNES' PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHETT

Meeting Minutes

Meeting	St Agnes School Advisory Council	
Date and Time	6:30pm – 9:00pm, Tuesday 18th November, 2025	
Location	St Agnes' Primary School, Peterson's Street Highett	
Attendees	Lachlan Foott	LF
	Amanda Baker	AB
	Felicity Langley	FL
	Karen McGoldrick	KM
	Fiona Newington	FN
	Caroline Cunningham	CC
	Martin Cox	MC
	Josh Ryan	JR
	Carly Monahan	CM

Apologies

No.	Agenda Item	Responsible
1.	Chair's Report Draft report prepared and shared by FL <ul style="list-style-type: none">Feedback provided by committee. Nil major changes or additionsCM raised to add in acknowledging icypoles and sausage sizzleTook out paragraph re encouraging social media reviewsLF to send out copy of report along with school newsletter	FL
2.	Principal's Report Summary School Improvement Data <ul style="list-style-type: none">School Improvement Plan 2025–2028 priorities continue strong progress across Catholic identity, teaching and learning, reflective practice and instructional leadership.	LF

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Light in Darkness.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MACSSIS staff results exceeded 2028 targets in Psychological Safety, Professional Learning, CoLab, Improvement Strategy and overall positive endorsement. ● MACSSIS student results exceeded 2028 targets in school climate and teacher–student relationships. ● Family results remain stable and above the MACS average in all areas except Catholic identity (slightly below). ● Overall, there has been a marked improvement in survey data across the past six years during Lachie’s tenure. <p>Academic Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading Benchmarks: Prep 77%; Year 1 92%; Year 2 100%. ● PAT Adaptive: Reading and maths above year-level norms across Years 2–6. ● Westwood Growth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Addition/subtraction – significant growth in Years 1–2 ○ Multiplication/division – significant growth in Years 3–6 ● SA Spelling: All year level means above expected spelling age; 55% of students one year above, 33% at level, 10% one year below. ● NAPLAN Targets Achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Year 3 reading >40% exceeding ○ Year 3 numeracy >85% strong ○ Year 5 reading >90% strong ○ Year 5 grammar & punctuation >85% strong ○ Year 5 numeracy >85% strong <p>2026 Annual Action Plan Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve comprehension and response to text (Years 2–4). 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve sentence-level grammar in extended writing (Years 5–6). ● Strengthen number-fluency skills (Prep–Year 2). <p>Infrastructure Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No outcome yet for master plan grant application (expected Nov - unlikely to be successful). ● Plans progressing for renovation of the current Year 6 classroom to create an additional learning space (awaiting pricing but estimate approx 100K). ● Wi-Fi network upgrades completed - new switching ● Playground redevelopment quotes received: preferred suppliers Playco and Adventure Plus, with cost range of \$88,000–\$140,000 with tanbark plus approx. \$35,000 for levelling and soft-fall surface ● Other works prioritised include signage, painting, playground upgrades and ongoing progressive technology purchase. <p>Enrolments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2026 projected enrolment: 183+ students (24 new Prep families, 15 departing). ● Two Prep classes in 2026 (37 students in total). ● Continued enrolment enquiries across Years 1–6. ● Prep 2027 already has 24 expressions of interest. ● Significant growth since 2023 (115 students). <p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stable and engaged staffing group with minimal movement. ● Nine straight classes planned for 2026. ● Learning Enhancement Leader role to continue. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Principal, Tom Hartney, commencing in 2026; already attending the school regularly to connect with staff and parents. <p>School Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Major highlights: School Production, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents' Day. ● Strong community engagement throughout the year. ● Fete planning well advanced, with over \$15,000 sponsorship secured strongest in recent years. ● Looking ahead to Carols and end-of-year Graduation Liturgy. <p>SAC Acknowledgements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanks extended to all SAC members for their contribution this year, with special mention to FL and FN. ● SAC remains stable for 2026 with no departing members. ● Lachie thanked the school community for its support over many years, acknowledging families who chose and continued to trust St Agnes during periods of challenge. 	
3.	<p>Election of New School Advisory Council Members and Office Bearers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apart from LF who will be replaced by incoming principal Tom Hartney, all current members to remain for 2026. FL and FN to continue in Chair and Secretary roles respectively. ● KM advised that parent Jenny Cummings keen to join next year. LF supportive of this. 	LF
5.	<p>A.O.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2026 first meeting date tentatively set for Tues 3rd March - Tom to confirm next year 	All

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