

YEARS 10-12 PRESENTATION EVENING
Thursday 17 October 2019
Barbara Sutton Hall

Ms Christine Cussen
Chair of Council

Good evening ladies and gentlemen

As Chair of Camberwell Girls Grammar School Council, I am delighted to welcome you to the Year 10-12 Presentation Evening, to celebrate the achievements of our senior school students. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our staff, parents and wider community. Your contributions have made 2019 another very successful year in the life of our School. There is no doubt Camberwell Girls Grammar School continues to be a leader and innovator in the education of our students.

To our Year 12 students, the focus is on YOU this evening. I wish you every success as you head into the final phase of preparation for your upcoming exams. I am sure that your dedicated efforts, very hard work and great attitude, and the support provided by your family, teachers and friends will enable you to achieve your very best and realise your dreams.

This year the School Council undertook a comprehensive process of renewal and appointment which has resulted in a number of new appointments to both School Council and Council Subcommittees. It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of the following people:

- **Mr Steve Burrows** – Mr Burrows was appointed as both a member of School Council and as Chair of the Property Committee in April 2019. Mr Burrows is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia, past parent and has been a member of the Property Committee since June 2015.
- **Dr Nikita Weickhardt** – Dr Weickhardt joined School Council in July 2019 as an Archbishop-in-Council appointment. Dr Weickhardt is an experienced corporate strategist and engineer with skill, experience and background in business growth and operations management both within Australia and internationally. Dr Weickhardt is also a current parent of the School.
- **Ms Christine Willshire** – Ms Willshire was appointed as a member of School Council in May 2019 and subsequently appointed as Chair of the Risk & Governance Committee in August 2019 following the retirement of Dr Nigel Simpson from this role. Ms Willshire is a former student of the School - class of 1993, and currently practices as a barrister.
- **Mr James Burnet** – Mr Burnet was appointed to the Finance & Audit Committee in August 2019. Mr Burnet is a respected accountant with a wealth of experience in the not-for-profit sector. Mr Burnet comes to the Finance & Audit Committee as an independent appointment.
- **Mr Tiel Lillehagen** - Mr Lillehagen was appointed to the Property Committee in June 2019. Mr Lillehagen brings a depth of experience in leadership, strategy, contract management and stakeholder engagement and is a welcome addition to our Property Committee. Mr Lillehagen is also a current parent of the School.

To all our new appointments, I extend a very warm welcome.



I would also like to take the opportunity to thank those members of School Council and Council Subcommittees who have either completed their term of appointment or retired this year. Collectively these people have provided 64 years of service a truly remarkable achievement! with some continuing to be involved with the school.

In particular, I would like to thank:

- **Mr Peter Slifirski** – Mr Slifirski completed his term on Council this year having served since October 2009. I would like to thank Peter for his tireless work and for his continued support of the School as a member of the Property Committee.
- **Ms Christine Swan** – Ms Swan also completed her term on Council this year having served since April 2009. I thank Christine for her legal counsel and governance expertise throughout her term and also for her continued support of the School as she currently Chairs the Foundation & Community Committee.
- **Mr John Crow** – A term of some 30 years, with the school. Mr Crow retired from the Property Committee in March this year. John's long enduring and enormous contribution to our School cannot be understated. John has been a member of the Property Committee since June 2009, served on School Council, including the role of Chair and is also a Life Governor of the School.
- **Miss Cara Davey** – Miss Davey retired from the Risk & Governance Committee in May this year having served on this committee since its inception in June 2012. I thank Cara for her significant contribution.
- **Dr Nigel Simpson** – Dr Simpson also retired from the Risk & Governance Committee in August this year having served since the Committee's inception. I thank Nigel for his leadership and valuable contribution.

In addition to the committee chairs already mentioned, Steve Burrows, Christine Willshire and Christine Swan, I would also like to extend my thanks to our other Committee Chairs, who govern and oversee the School operations with diligence, care and great personal commitment:

- **Mr Sam Page - Chair of Finance & Audit Committee**
- **Dr Helen Rawson - Chair of the Education Policy Committee**

The School Council continues its commitment to governance excellence and oversight as well as adding strategic value to the School. It is with pleasure that I report that the School continues to manage its finances well, which provides funds that can be allocated toward building projects and refurbishments around our campus. The School Council has, as part of its future focus agenda, the refurbishment of the Barbara Sutton Hall and Performing Arts Precinct, the implementation of a number of strategic educational initiatives and the delivery of a new Strategic Plan. The Property & Finance Committees are currently overseeing the final stage of the refurbishment of the Science facilities and we are excited about seeing this project come to completion over the upcoming Christmas break.

Our Foundation & Community Committee's focus is on establishing and re-establishing important connections with the School community as well as planning a variety of celebrations for our 100th anniversary next year. In 2020 we will have the opportunity to honour our past, look forward to the future and celebrate many wonderful occasions with our extensive School community. I encourage you to join me in celebrating this important milestone.



Of course the success of our School could not be possible without the enormous contribution our parents make in providing a nurturing environment where our students are able learn. I specifically want to thank the Parents' & Friends' Association, parent groups and volunteers who have again contributed to the life of our School in 2019.

Finally and very importantly, I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Debbie Dunwoody for her outstanding leadership of our School and her passion for excellence in absolutely everything she does. She leads a highly dedicated team of teaching staff, professional services staff and property staff who all seek to inspire and engage those around them, which ultimately benefits our students and the school.

Please join me in thanking them.....